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GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT SELFIES

Ben Berry, centre, is using selfies to teach his Ryerson University students an important lesson about diversity and the way people are portrayed in the fashion industry. **Story, page 6.** DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

From T-dot to K-pop

Local singer is hitting high notes in the Korean music scene.

PAGE 7

Selling cheaper air travel for a song

Pearson. Free ebooks, music downloads are examples of perks airport offer passengers to keep prices lower

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
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Airports aren't often known for their perks, but at Pearson, travellers can now download free books and music while they wait to board their flight.

And they might want to — if they want to keep their ticket prices low.

The new perks are part of efforts by the Greater Toronto Airports Authority to boost revenue from commercial sources — like food and retail sales — and from marketing sponsorships, like the one with American Express that's behind the new freebies.

The more money airports make this way, the less they need to charge travellers in airport fees, said Vijay Gill, a transport consultant with Ottawa-based firm CPCS.

"Passengers should be happy to see the airport be able to generate revenues in other ways, and at the very least to deals like this, be agnostic towards them," Gill said.

Airports get money three ways: by charging fees to airlines; by charging fees to passengers (which airlines collect and pass on to airports); and from making money through services at the airport itself, such as parking, restaurants and Wi-Fi.

Pearson only makes about 15 per cent of its revenue from the last group, Gill said, while competitors like the Vancouver International Airport depend on them for about a third of their money.

"If you look at their landing fees relative to Pearson, they're lower, and they would make the argument that it's in part because of the contributions they've been able to generate out of those commercial revenues," Gill said.

Sponsorships such as the multimillion-dollar partnership with American Express — which gives the credit card company access to Pearson's more than 30-million annual passengers — means travellers might be subject to more ads and marketing.

But they won't have to foot the bill themselves for Wi-Fi or, say, a Calvin Harris song, both of which are part of the deal.

How it works

- While at Pearson, travellers will be able to visit a dedicated website to download select ebooks and individual songs. The content is provided by HarperCollins Canada and Sony Music Canada.
- Travellers must be connected to airport Wi-Fi or use their own data plans to access the free materials.
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A 'smart shirt' to keep you warm

Entrepreneurship. FuelWear's hit product delivers much-needed, battery-powered heat

GILBERT NGABO
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Winter can freeze your body, but for one Toronto trio, it's had the opposite effect.

FuelWear — a startup launched by three University of Toronto engineering grads — is literally heating things up with what's been dubbed a "smart shirt."

Clement Zhou and his partners got the idea while shivering in the depths of last year's polar vortex.

What they needed was some heat that was up close and personal, something FuelWear shirts deliver at the touch of a button.

The shirts are literally heating powerhouses. Made with bamboo fabric, each shirt is equipped with a small battery and settings that allow the wearer to choose their level of warmth.

Once you hit that perfect level of cosy, the shirt shuts off, so to speak.

"You still need your winter coat and gloves, but the layer gives you that feeling of 'Ahhh' instead of feeling frozen from head to toe," Zhou said.

FuelWear was initially launched via a crowdfunding campaign as a way to test the waters. The goal was set at $20,000.

Within two weeks, FuelWear had met its production cap and raised more than $80,000.

"We were totally surprised," said Zhou, adding that more than 600 shirts have been sold to buyers across Canada, the U.S., and as far away as South Korea and Japan.

The company's now working to make more shirts to be ready for winter 2016.

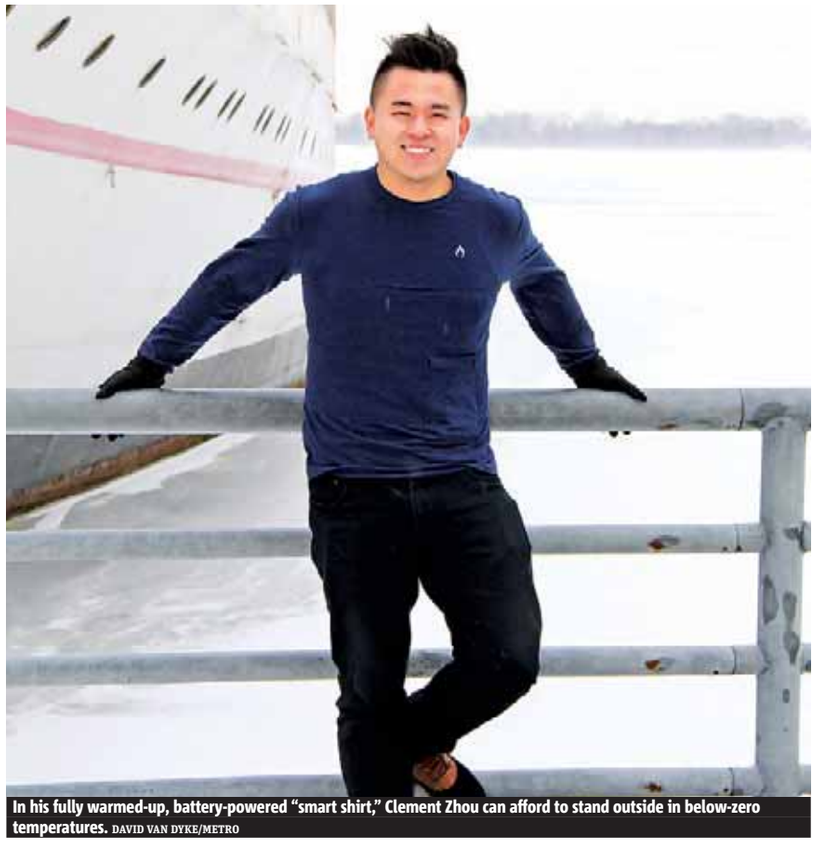
All sales are online at this point, with plans for a downtown Toronto office in the near future.

Plans are also underway to expand production to include leg warmers and socks, Zhou said.

By the numbers

$199

The price of a FuelWear shirt (battery included).



In his fully warmed-up, battery-powered "smart shirt," Clement Zhou can afford to stand outside in below-zero temperatures. DAVID VAN DYKE/METRO

Strike looms for academic staff at York, U of T: Union

The union representing teaching assistants and other academic staff at Ontario's two largest universities warns a strike as early as Thursday could jeopardize the school year for thousands of students.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees says about 10,000 non-tenured academic staff at the University of Toronto and York University could walk off the job if they don't get a contract with a "modest" salary increase.

CUPE says teaching assistants provide about 60 per cent of the undergrad instruction at U of T and York, but account for only 3.5 to eight per cent of the universities' operating budgets.

Union president Fred Hahn says teaching assistants get paid $15,000 a year — $8,000 below the poverty line — and they must pay tuition on top of that.

He says they also need increased job security, noting many don't know from one semester to the next if they will have a job.

CUPE negotiates directly with the universities, but Hahn says the province should provide special funding to help teaching assistants get a pay hike, just as it has done for low-income childcare workers.

"They've said they understand that low-paid workers deserve a raise ... and that workplace precarity is an epidemic that they need to address," he said. "What we're pointing out here today is that the majority of instruction at two of the largest universities in our country is done by workers living below the poverty line who all suffer from workplace precarity."

CUPE represents about 240,000 workers across Ontario, including about 25,000 at the province's universities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Toronto's mystery tunnel grabs international interest

Investigation.
Evidence found of people eating, drinking and spending time recently in the bunker

"There's no criminal offence for digging a hole," Toronto's Deputy Police Chief Mark Saunders told a packed news conference Tuesday morning.

That 10-metre hole — tunnel, bunker, call it what you will — dug by hand, apparently, near a venue for this summer's Pan Am Games is getting international attention at a time when the public is jittery with repeated terror warnings.

But there's no indication of terrorism. Or drug operations. Or a smuggling ring.

If there was some nefarious purpose suspected, police aren't saying.

Saunders did indicate that certain items found in the bunker were held back so that if anyone came forward police would be able to verify their claims.

And there was evidence of people eating, drinking and recently spending time in the bunker, so perhaps they have DNA — should that matter.

The most intriguing detail released Tuesday was the discovery of a rosary and Remembrance Day poppy.

"This was found inside the actual tunnel itself and it was nailed on the wall," Saunders said, holding up a large photo of the poppy and rosary, sparking a cacophony of camera shutters.

"What does that tell you?" asked one journalist.

"That tells me that this was nailed inside the tunnel on a wall," Saunders said.

Reports stated that the case was referred to the national security agencies, and sources said both the RCMP and CSIS were briefed on the case.

But that is standard, given the location and mysterious nature of the tunnel, and no alarm bells were ringing in either agency, nor were formal investigations launched, which means unless more evidence comes to light following Tuesday's news conference — as police hope — this is not the #TerrorTunnel that was trending on Twitter.

The problem is that in this current climate, given our jittery state over Canada-specific terror warnings and being home to an upcoming international sporting event, no strange finding can be discounted.

The tunnel was near the Rexall Centre, where the tennis games will be played this summer. And that is a tempting target for any group looking for mass casualties and widespread media attention.

When asked, though, if there was concern, Saunders, the executive officer in charge of security at the Pan Am Games, responded with a definitive "no."

The security issue that worried police was the tunnel itself, which is why it was filled in. But when asked why investigators did not keep surveillance on the area longer, the deputy chief responded that they had heard the media were aware of the story and police wanted to "get ahead of it." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto police handout photos show the site, entrance and underground construction of the tunnel found near one of the venues for this year's Pan American Games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The tunnel, discovered in January by a conservation officer in a densely wooded area, is located 25 metres from the fence of the Rexall Centre, which is to host tennis events for the summer Games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

While the investigation is still ongoing, police emphasized that the structure wasn't currently thought to pose a public safety threat. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police shooting

Still no name for dead man

A 49-year-old man was shot dead by Toronto police a week ago, but his name remains secret, though the province's police watchdog knows who he is.

Due to a fairly recent policy change at the Special Investigations Unit, the public may never know the man's identity — a troubling thought, say observers, who point out that the name is crucial for scrutinizing a shooting by police and ensuring transparency.

The SIU, which investigates all police-related deaths, decided in 2012 to release names of people killed by officers only with the consent of the family.

The new policy stands in contrast to police force practice, which is to routinely release the names of homicide victims regardless of the family's wishes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Development

Condo builds reach record

A record number of condos — more than 10,000 — were completed in the GTA in January.

That's eight times more than the average for the past decade, according to Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO.

"It's certainly a big jump for one month," he said. "We should anticipate further big numbers on the amount of completed units coming onto the market in coming months."

Most of the completed units were pre-sold, but the increase still lifted the number of unsold units to a 21-year high of just over 1,600 units, Guatieri's report noted.

Construction delays meant builders were playing catch-up after a record number of condo starts in the Toronto area in 2012, he explained.

More than 37,000 units were started in 2012, compared to the past decade's yearly norm of around 25,000 units and around the approximately 20,000 started in 2014.

The 2012 building boom was in response to the prior year's record demand for condos, according to Guatieri, when more than 28,000 new condos were sold.

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Switches mean it's too cold to GO

Transit. Train riders being warned to prepare for delays as extreme weather keeps track crews busy

At one time, on bitterly cold days, it would have looked like there was a series of bonfires running down the tracks from Union Station. As recently as the 1980s, crews would douse the track switches with kerosene and set them ablaze, heating the metal to prevent the moving parts of the switches from seizing or breaking in the extreme cold weather.

Today, GO Transit installs switch heaters that blow hot air — about 200 F above the ambient temperature — across the switches in an effort to keep them operating properly.

But even those don't always work. On Tuesday, a number of trains were delayed up to 40 minutes due to jammed switches and doors on the Lakeshore West line, starting about 8:15 a.m. Later in the morning a broken switch at Bronte station meant trains travelling east and west were confined to a single track while crews worked to fix the problem.

A cracked rail delayed the first train out of Barrie station, and the Lakeshore West issues rippled down the line to Lakeshore East.

Switch heaters, which cost between $20,000 and $100,000 each, are the best option available anywhere in the rail industry, according to GO president Greg Percy. He knows. Keeping the trains running in bad weather is so important, GO regularly investigates the latest technology.

There are 828 switches on the GO network, 221 on the Union Station corridor alone. GO owns and operates 693 of the switches, while the remainder belong to CN and CP.

About five years ago, GO experimented with switch covers along its tracks to keep ice and snow off the moving parts.

But the covers turned out to be a fire hazard, so the pilot was stopped.

Sometimes, lighter blowing snow, like the precipitation that snarled service on Feb. 2, infiltrates the metal rods in the switches. In other cases, large chunks of ice and snow fall off the underside of the trains and are too large for the heaters to melt. Percy often compares it to trying to melt ice cubes with a hair dryer.

When the switches fail to trigger signal lights along the track that permit trains to continue moving down the line, the resulting delays can ripple through the system for hours.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"Tonight we will ensure our vehicles are warmed up well in advance of morning service since it will be very cold tonight."

GO spokeswoman Anne Marie Aikins in advance of a recent frigid spell. GO tries to keep its locomotives warm in addition to the track switches.

Ryerson prof challenges fashionable homogeneity

GILBERT NGABO
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A Ryerson University fashion professor is fighting back against an industry dominated by models that have been airbrushed into perfection.

"It's exclusive, narrow and limited," said Ben Barry, assistant professor of equity, diversity and inclusion at the university's school of fashion.

"It doesn't represent the true panorama of our beauty."

Barry is starting his fight at the roots — with students. He recently challenged a class to take and post "honest selfies," meaning they couldn't use filters or fine-tuning.

Overall, Barry's out to prove that fashion, as an industry, is as diverse as people.

Often, we see "very cookie-cutter-type images" with one type of person represented through the pose, the hair, the makeup and the body language, he said.

Diversity transcends that and, therefore, fashion should encompass all races, ages, sizes and so on, he added.

Fashion professor Ben Barry asked his students to take and post "honest selfies" — no filters or fine-tuning allowed. CONTRIBUTED

"We want students to use their creativity and their imagination to represent people in all their diversity and authenticity," he said.

After all, those buying clothes are "ordinary people" we see on the streets every day, not the "reflections of their images" in magazines or on Twitter, he said.

And fashion is always about change, Barry noted.

"Just as we see new clothes every season, it's time to start to see diverse bodies in the fashion industry," he said.

"People will feel great if fashion represents them in an authentic way."

Toronto hailed as 'K-pop capital of North America'

Music. Big-name Korean stars headed to city thanks to fans

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The biggest single showing of Korean pop acts in Toronto is coming to Massey Hall in March, after 1,000 of the city's K-pop fans each put up hundreds of dollars for a concert.

Toronto was one of only five cities where fans succeeded in landing a show with solo K-pop stars Ailee, San E, and Jay Park, who will make stops in New York, San Francisco, Austin and L.A. as well.

And that's led concert organizers to hail Toronto as the new "K-pop capital of North America."

It's a title echoed by Gerald Belanger, founder of Toronto event company Kpop Canada.

Jay Park is one of the K-pop artists coming to Toronto's Massey Hall next month. GETTY IMAGES

Belanger is organizing the city's first K-pop convention in May.

Together, the convention and Massey Hall show mark a major coup for a city that has often been skipped by K-pop bands travelling to North America in the past, Belanger said.

The campaign that brought the show to Massey Hall saw 1,000 Toronto fans spend $200 or $270 on tickets, compared to only 149 in New York and 472 in San Francisco.

The K-pop crowd in Toronto is mostly non-Korean.

"You're talking less than 0.05 per cent Korean involvement in anything K-pop. It's Chinese kids, Vietnamese kids, girls from Dubai," he said, noting the list goes on. "This scene is absolutely pan-global."

Asking a Korean expat if they're into K-Pop is like "going up to a hipster in Canada and asking if they like Justin Bieber," he added.

What's the deal?

K-pop has grown from a music genre that's a Korean take on a blend of pop, dance, R&B and hip hop. It's become an international phenomenon also known for its fashion and gossip.

From Richmond Hill to pop music limelight

One of the newest and most-hyped K-pop girl bands features talent from Richmond Hill.

Wendy Son — who once performed with Richmond Hill High School's Vocal Fusion show choir — is now a K-pop star with the girl group Red Velvet.

"The agencies have talent searches here in Toronto every year," said Gerald Belanger, who runs a K-pop event company in Toronto. "Toronto is definitely what you'd call a breeding ground."

K-pop songwriter and producer Jorge Toledo-Ramirez first saw Son perform during a Vancouver competition in 2011. He later worked with her on songwriting projects before she was snapped up in 2012 by S.M. Entertainment, one of the biggest Korean music labels.

"When I first heard Wendy sing, I was completely blown away and I told myself that I need to get in touch with this girl," he said.

Son moved to Seoul to be an "SM Rookie," which means star in training.

Wendy Son. FACEBOOK

In high school, Son was known as kind, funny girl with a soulful voice, said fellow choir member Alyssa Bouranova.

"She had this amazing range and almost this gospel-like quality to her voice," Bouranova said. "She was always doing Beyoncé covers."

Son isn't the only artist to be plucked from the streets of Toronto and thrust into the K-pop limelight.

Henry Lau, who hails from Willowdale, is a member of one of Asia's biggest K-pop sensations, Super Junior-M.

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5 facts about new Ryerson centre

University's new Student Learning Centre, the eight-storey architectural marvel perched at Yonge and Gould streets, had its soft opening Tuesday. From outside to in, it's full of interesting tidbits and perks for students.

LUKE SIMCOE
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LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

1 The design

The blue and white structure was designed by Zeidler Architects in Toronto and the Norwegian firm Snøhetta. The latter designed both the Oslo Opera House and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt.

2 The furniture

All of the furniture in the building was selected by Ryerson students.

COURTESY OF RYERSON UNIVERSITY

3 Three green roofs

The Student Learning Centre features three green roofs, earning it a LEED Silver designation for sustainability.

4 The Beach

Every floor in the building is unique. The sixth floor is referred to as the Beach and features round lights designed to mimic the sun, tiered seating to represent sand and a blue corner overlooking Yonge Street, which symbolizes water. And for those students seeking a snooze, the entire seventh floor has been designated as a quiet zone.

COURTESY OF RYERSON UNIVERSITY

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

5 Sam's sign

The Student Learning Centre occupies the same spot as the old Sam the Record Man store. The new building was supposed to incorporate the music retailer's iconic sign, but Ryerson claimed the emblem clashed with their architectural plans. Instead, the school brokered a deal to mount the sign on top of a building overlooking Yonge-Dundas Square.

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Anti sex-ed idea called 'wild'

Education. Group claims new curriculum is a massive conspiracy to 'groom' students for pedophiles

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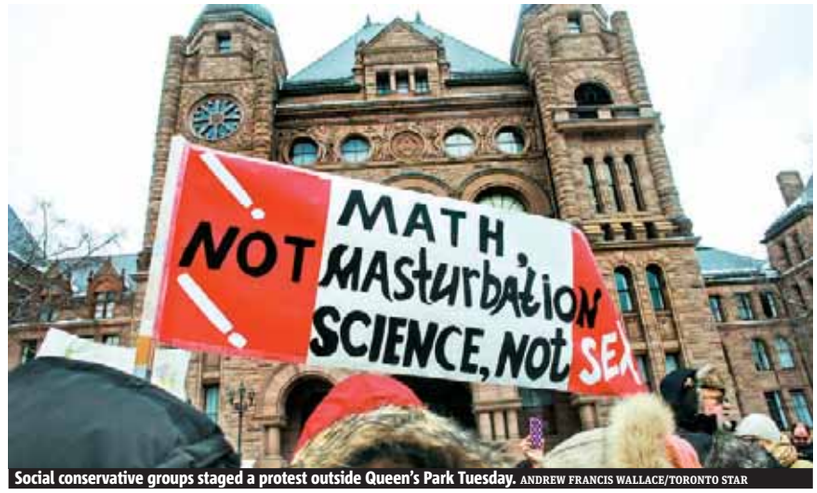

Social conservative groups staged a protest outside Queen's Park Tuesday. ANDREW FRANCIS WALLACE/TORONTO STAR

The socially conservative Campaign Life Coalition has a theory: The new sex-ed curriculum is one giant conspiracy to "groom" Ontario's children to be victims of pedophilia.

"That's wild," said University of Toronto political science professor Nelson Wiseman. "A lot of people feel (sex ed) should be strictly the purview of the family, and it's not something that should be incorporated into the education of children — but the idea that this grooms kids for pedophilia is crazy."

The pedophilia theory was espoused in a long, loud speech given Tuesday by Campaign Life Coalition spokesman Jack Fonseca.

Fonseca, speaking to hundreds of protesters outside Queen's Park, talked about how a pedophile in charge of education policy could have designed the curriculum as a way to groom children "to make them sexually available to him."

"For starters, he could get six-year-olds in Grade 1 comfortable with the idea of adults talking to them about their genitals," he said, in a reference to the new curriculum teaching first-graders the actual names of their body parts, such as penis and vagina.

Teaching kids about sexual and gender identity will confuse them about their sexuality, making them vulnerable, he continued. The crowd responded with cheers of "shame!"

Many of the speeches at the rally focused on how former deputy minister of education Ben Levin has pleaded guilty to child pornography charges.

"The fingerprints of a child pornographer are on this curriculum," said former Toronto District School Board trustee Sam Sotiropolous in his speech at the rally. "Deputy Minister Ben Levin had his filthy hands all over this curriculum. His stamp is embedded on this material and he is an admitted child pornographer."

The government has denied that Levin wrote the curriculum, unveiled Monday and planned to hit classrooms in September.

Sotiropolous also appears to have suggested, on Twitter, that Premier Kathleen Wynne herself is a pedophile.

"A common pedophile tactic is to lower a child's inhibitions concerning sexual matters, @Kathleen_Wynne's #sexed is "grooming," he tweeted.

Wiseman said the group's radical claims detract from the more measured concerns some parents might have.

Former premier Dalton McGuinty backed down five years ago when protesters challenged his proposed sex-ed overhaul.

Wynne's government isn't likely to do that, Wiseman said.

Debate. PC leadership hopeful accused of homophobia

A Progressive Conservative leadership hopeful is facing accusations of homophobia after criticizing Premier Kathleen Wynne's new sex-ed curriculum.

MPP Monte McNaughton attacked Wynne for not doing enough to consult parents on the new teaching plan.

The premier, who is openly gay, suggested McNaughton was being homophobic when he said Monday "it's not the premier of Ontario's job — especially Kathleen Wynne — to tell parents what is age-appropriate for their children."

"What is it that especially disqualifies me for the job that I'm doing? Is it that I'm a woman? Is it that I'm a mother? Is it that I have a master's of education? Is it that I was a school council chair? Is it that I was the minister of education?" Wynne said in the house, staring down the Tory MPP.

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Obama's Keystone veto not final word

Pipeline dispute. Congress passed a bill earlier this month forcing approval of the project

U.S. President Barack Obama made good Tuesday on a threat to veto a bill that would approve the Keystone XL pipeline, bringing the two sides in the long-running controversy to a rare point of agreement: Their battle is far from over.

"The president's veto of the Keystone jobs bill is a national embarrassment," said the top Republican in the House of Representatives, John Boehner.

"We are not going to give up in our efforts to get this pipeline built — not even close."

The issue is about to play out on two fronts. One is a major presidential regulatory decision, and the other, as suggested by Boehner, likely involves future clashes with Congress.

The Canadian government echoed that theme: "It is not a question of if this project will be approved, it is a matter of when," said a statement from Natural Resources Minister Greg Rickford.

"We will continue to strongly advocate for this job-creating project."

Even the White House concurred that the issue is far from settled. It pointed out that Tuesday's announcement was a step in a long, winding process — not a final destination.

The president cast the veto as a matter of procedural principle. In his letter to Congress, Obama said the bill he was scrapping had improperly tried to usurp presidential authority.

The White House position is that cross-border pipeline permits are a matter for the president to decide — not Congress, which passed a bill earlier this month forcing the approval of the project.

That bill was delivered to the president Tuesday, and he vetoed it on the very first available day. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Hurricane Hazel' going strong

Hazel McCallion in a file photo from last spring. "Hurricane Hazel" is still going strong. At the age of 94, McCallion — one of Canada's longest serving mayors — is embarking on a new career. She has taken a job at the University of Toronto after leading the City of Mississauga for 36 years. She retired from political office in November and is now a special adviser to the president of the university's Mississauga division on matters related to the strategic development of the school. The university says her appointment, which runs for a year, began earlier this month.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Assisted suicide. Tories back off asking to extend deadline

Confusion reigned Tuesday over how the Harper government intends to respond to the Supreme Court ruling that struck down the ban on doctor-assisted dying.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper refused to give a straight answer when asked whether the government may use the constitutional notwithstanding clause to override the court's ruling.

He said the government intends to launch "comprehensive" public consultations on the matter before deciding how to respond to the court ruling. But the government gave only a vague outline for how that consultation process will work.

Moreover, the government sent mixed signals about whether it intends to meet the court's 12-month deadline for crafting a new law.

Bob Dechert, parliamentary secretary to Justice Minister Peter MacKay, initially said Tuesday that 12 months is not enough time to deal with such a sensitive issue, particularly since an election will shutter Parliament for two or three months in the fall.

MP Stephen Woodworth says the government should use the controversial notwithstanding clause to override the time limit the Supreme Court set on the issue of assisted suicide. THE CANADIAN PRESS

But he later backtracked, saying the government intends to meet the deadline.

Dechert said he'd been speaking as a lawyer, not on behalf of the government, when he earlier predicted that the court would "most likely" grant an extension.

The question of assisted suicide is "amongst the most important, I think, that we'll ever have to deal with," Dechert told the House of Commons.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ISIL abducts more than 70 Assyrian villagers

Syria. Of those taken by the militant group, the majority were women and children, while thousands fled to nearby cities

Militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) struck before dawn, staging house-to-house raids in a cluster of villages nestled along the Khabur River in northeastern Syria. They abducted at least 70 Christians — many of them women and children — while thousands of others fled to safer areas.

The captives' fate was unclear Tuesday, a day after they were seized, and relatives said mobile phone service was cut off and land lines also were not going through, adding to the fear and uncertainty about their loved ones.

ISIL has a history of killing captives, including foreign journalists, Syrian soldiers and Kurdish militiamen. Most recently, militants in Libya affiliated with the group released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians.

The group's bloody campaign in Syria and Iraq, where it seeks to form a self-styled caliphate, has repeatedly targeted religious minorities since it took control of a third of both countries. A U.S.-led coalition of regional partners are conducting a campaign of airstrikes against the group.

Nuri Kino, the head of a group called A Demand For Action, said between 70 and 100 Assyrians were taken captive. About 3,000 people fled and have sought refuge in the cities of Hassakeh and Qamishli, he said.

"Have they been slaughtered? Are they still alive? We're searching for any news,'' said an Assyrian Christian woman from Tal Shamiram, where most captives were taken from. Others were abducted from nearby Tal Hurmiz.

"I feel so helpless, I cannot do anything for them but pray," she said.

The Assyrian Network for Human Rights in Syria said on its Facebook page that the militants had moved the captives to the village of Umm al-Masamir on Mount Abdulaziz, some 25 kilometres south of Tal Shamiram. That raised fears, the network said, that ISIL could use them as human shields against Kurdish militiamen, an effective foe against the group. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"I feel so helpless, I cannot do anything for them but pray."

An undentified Assyrian Christian woman from Tal Shamiram, one of the villages attacked by ISIL. She's been unable to contact either her parents or her brother.

Ukraine disputes rebels' pullback claims

A bus drives by a convoy transporting artillery pieces outside the city of Donetsk, Ukraine, on Tuesday. Howitzers were seen moving east from the largest rebel-held city in eastern Ukraine further into separatist-controlled territory, but the Ukrainian government disputed the rebels' claim that a heavy-weapons pullback had begun. Heavy weapons are to be pulled back 25 to 70 kilometres from the front line, depending on their calibre, in accordance with a peace plan agreed upon on Feb. 12. VADIM GHIRDA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraq

Baghdad bombing kills 40, injures dozens more

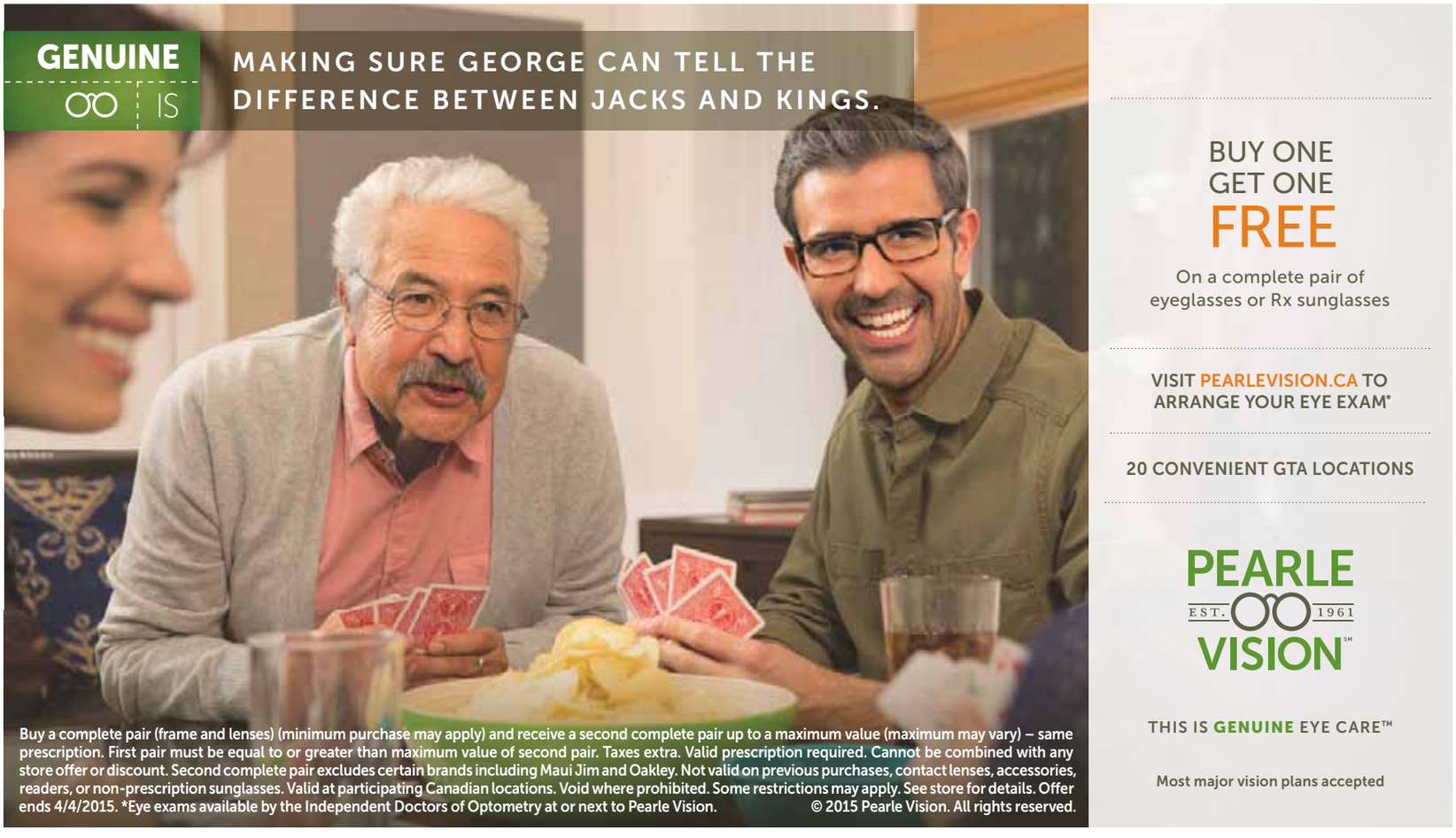
A series of bombings in Iraq, including twin blasts in a busy street in a Baghdad suburb, killed at least 40 people and wounded dozens on Tuesday, Iraqi officials said.

The deadliest of the day's attacks came shortly before sunset, when a bomb exploded in Baghdad's southeastern suburb of Jisr Diyala. Minutes later, a car bomb went off near the site of the first blast as people started gathering to help the victims of the initial explosion. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nigeria

Suicide bombers strike bus stations

Teenage suicide bombers, suspected to be Boko Haram extremists, killed at least 24 people in separate blasts Tuesday at crowded bus stations in two northern Nigerian cities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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TFSA. Two studies warn against increasing limits

Two studies on tax-free savings accounts sound alarm bells about their long-term fiscal impact, if the Conservative government keeps a 2011 campaign promise to allow people to park almost twice as much money in the popular savings vehicles.

The report from the left-leaning Broadbent Institute says a pledge to up the TFSA contribution limit to $10,000 from the current $5,500 would ultimately cost billions in lost tax revenue while primarily lining the pockets of the wealthy.

The report says the majority of Canadians would bear the burden of reduced public services or higher taxes to offset the lost revenues.

The parliamentary budget office also weighed in Tuesday on TFSAs, calling them regressive. The impact on public finances in the early years is relatively minimal, Mostafa Askari, assistant parliamentary budget officer, told a media briefing on the PBO report. But by 2080, costs will increase tenfold, reaching 0.57 per cent of GDP.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TSFAs, by the numbers

- Number of people with TFSAs: Almost 11 million
- Percentage of holders in 2013 who earned less than $70,000 a year in after-tax income, according to the federal government: 75 per cent
- Percentage of holders who earn less than $42,000 a year after taxes, according to the federal government: Almost 50 per cent

Canadian firm clears way for 'a robot in every company'

A Husky robot seen at the Clearpath Robotics warehouse in Kitchener, Ont.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Technology. Kitchener, Ont.-based Clearpath Robotics rolling out robots to automate 'dullest, dirtiest and deadliest' jobs

Inside the headquarters of Clearpath Robotics, a robot revolution is underway.

Where a receptionist would have once welcomed your arrival, there's now a little robot named Glados hanging from the ceiling above a vacant table. It scans the waiting room to detect movement and offer its greeting.

It's a glimpse of how co-founder and chief executive Matt Rendall envisions the future, as robots change the way people live and work.

"Before the home, our vision is 'a robot in every company and every job site,'" he said. "There are still so many jobs that humans are not well-suited to do."

A recent study from the Boston Consulting Group shows that investment in industrial robots will grow 10 per cent per year in the world's 25 biggest export nations, through 2025.

Companies will be motivated by how cost-effective and efficient robots are compared to the human work force, the study said. It's estimated that labour expenses can be reduced by 24 per cent in Canada, and cut even further in regions like South Korea and Japan. Rendall believes that's where Clearpath comes in, as it rolls out a fleet of robots for jobs spanning industries like manufacturing, agriculture and the military.

Clearpath's Husky model is standing in for the Mars rover in a space simulation project run by the University of Toronto and the Canadian Space Agency. Using a remote, the operator can drive the model over rough terrain.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wisconsin

Workers protest right-to-work bill

About 2,000 construction workers, electricians, carpenters and other union members rallied at the Wisconsin state capitol on Tuesday, pushing back against a fast-tracked right-to-work bill backed by Republicans and Gov. Scott Walker. Right-to-work laws in place in 24 U.S. states, prohibit private-sector companies from reaching labour agreements in which workers have to pay fees to unions as a condition of employment. Indiana and Michigan were the two most recent states to pass such a law.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VOICES

RINK RAGE NEEDS TO BE STOPPED

The Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey Association finally got so sick of the bad behaviour of some parents, it banned eight of them from watching their kids' games. It would be nice if this didn't have to happen, but if Lord of the Flies taught us anything, it's that the only way to stop bullies is, y'know, to stop them

PAUL SULLIVAN
readers@metronews.ca

Call it rink rage.

It's the situation where otherwise civilized, middle-aged parents melt down over a call by the referee at their son's or daughter's hockey game.

Maybe we've even been tempted to lay a little rink rage on the referee ourselves. Because for a long time, it's been a free shot.

It doesn't seem to matter that it's only a kids' game that is supposed to be fun. (Fun is for losers!) Or that the referees are often only kids themselves who are still learning and have never heard anything like the, um, colourful language coming from behind the glass:

"There's no F!@#$% way that was (a) a goal (b) offside (c) interference (d) icing (e) all of the above, and it's time to let that stupid F!@#$% idiot have a piece of my mind."

The Vancouver Island Amateur Hockey Association has finally run out of patience with this nonsense, and this past weekend banned eight parents from attending their kids' games. It then added a fine for any coaches who dispute the ref's call.

Big babies

An entire generation has learned it's not necessary to grow up, and it's wreaking havoc down at the rink

Twenty referees on the Island have quit this season, citing an overdose of parental abuse. They're tired of being assaulted, cornered in dark parking lots, spit upon and showered with hot coffee, all for the less-than-50-bucks they get for calling a game.

It's just as bad (or worse) next door in Alberta, where 35 per cent of the approximate 5,000 amateur hockey referees quit after every season, vowing never to call another game.

So far in Alberta this year, there have been 15 match penalties — after players, egged on by their testosterone-fuelled dads (and moms … this is equal opportunity bad behaviour), went after the refs.

Watch the video of the overgrown baby in Pennsylvania who protested a call on the ice by smashing a panel of tempered glass with his fist, and you'll see what I mean. And he's hardly the worst. At least he's taking it out on an inanimate object.

There was a time, perhaps, when grown-ups could be counted on to behave. That's when there were grown-ups.

An entire generation has learned it's not necessary to grow up, and it's wreaking havoc down at the rink where people actually think it's their right to take things out on the refs. Free speech or something.

So should more hockey organizations follow in Vancouver Island's steps and ban unruly spectators?

Uh, yeah!

An ugly truth about human nature is that if people aren't held accountable, they seem capable of doing just about anything (See: Lord of the Flies).

Bullies are made bold by the knowledge that they have nothing to fear. As soon as they have something to fear, they aren't bullies any more.

How about that?

Confessions of a former Mean Girl, on Pink Shirt Day

KRISTEN THOMPSON
readers@metronews.ca

While it's a sign of conformity in Mean Girls, in real life Pink Shirt Day is a symbol of solidarity against the very bullying that Regina George et al were guilty of in the movie. SCREENGRAB

It's Pink Shirt Day in Canada — a national day to raise awareness about bullying — so let's talk.

Bullying education has come a long way since I was a kid. Students today learn that bullying takes many forms, from the physical to emotional, and they're taught to recognize and address these various forms of abuse.

It's a conversation we need to keep having, as it's easy for children — and adults — to ignore the types of bullying that don't leave bruises.

When I was in elementary school (scrunchies were the fashion accessory of choice, if that gives you context) bullying wasn't something we really talked about. At least not the sly Mean Girls-style bullying, of which I was both a victim and a perpetrator.

A part of me knew I was being hurtful when I joined my friends in randomly mocking or ignoring a classmate for a week. But it didn't occur to me until adulthood that I was as much a bully as the boys who pushed little kids down in the playground.

Today, the root of my guilt lies in how I behaved in the seventh grade to one of my best friends, whom we'll call "Melissa."

Melissa and I were inseparable for a couple years before having a falling out. I don't remember why or how it started.

What I do remember is leaving nasty notes about her in her textbooks, hoping she'd find them when she went to do homework. I remember whispering about her to other girls, and loudly exclaiming that so-and-so was my "new best friend." I don't remember feeling like I was doing anything wrong.

I ran into Melissa a couple times as a teenager — once at a party, where she told me I was the reason she changed schools in Grade 8. I saw her again at Christmas Eve Mass a few years later. I shyly waved hello and reintroduced myself to her mother, who was polite but curt (and rightly so).

I've typed her name into Facebook a couple times in recent years and found her profile. I even went so far as to draft apology messages, but deleted them before pressing "send".

Melissa's not on Facebook any more, at least not under her given name, and I don't know where to find her to let her know I'm sorry.

I wonder how many other women have grown up to realize that behaviour they thought was a normal part of school life was damaging to their peers?

Pink Shirt Day is changing the school environment for a generation of girls (and boys), and for the better. My daughter will be better informed and better armed to combat bullying than I was.

I may not be able to atone for how I treated Melissa, but I can be sure to teach my own daughter that bullying involves much more than throwing punches.

metro

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Red-carpet fashion critique, or racial slur? Zendaya weighs in

Zendaya Coleman

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

OK, two things: One, Disney star Zendaya Coleman looks amazing. And two, Fashion Police pundit Giuliana Rancic is not a very good comedian. While critiquing looks from the Oscars red carpet, Rancic had this to say about Coleman's long, luxurious dreadlocks: "This hair, to me, overwhelms her. I feel like she smells like patchouli oil. Or weed! Yeah, maybe weed?" Yikes.

Well, naturally, Coleman wasn't too pleased, and she registered her displeasure in a lengthy and well-reasoned rebuttal on Twitter. "There is a fine line between what is funny and disrespectful. Someone said something about my hair at the Oscars that left me in awe," Coleman wrote.

"Not because I was relishing in rave outfit reviews, but because I was hit with ignorant slurs and pure disrespect. To say that an 18-year-old young woman with locs must smell of patchouli oil or 'weed' is not only a large stereotype but outrageously offensive. I don't usually feel the need to respond to negative things but certain remarks cannot go unchecked." She then went on to point out numerous other notable people who don dreadlocks.

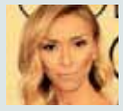
Rancic, for her part, tweeted that she was totally not referencing race but instead was making fun of bohemians. But man, what did bohemians ever do to her?

Quoted

"To say that an 18-year-old young woman with locs must smell of patchouli oil or 'weed' is not only a large stereotype but outrageously offensive."

Zendaya Coleman

Twitter



@ **GiulianaRancic**
Dear @Zendaya, I'm sorry I offended you and others. I was referring to a bohemian chic look. Had NOTHING to do with race and NEVER would!!!

Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Bobby gets flak for BET showing

Bobby Brown popped up on the broadcast of The BET Honors Monday night, which seemed a little strange to some viewers watching at home — you know, since his daughter is currently in the hospital fighting for her life and all. A few even took to Twitter to admonish Brown for getting his priorities mixed up. Here's the thing, though: The awards show — which also featured a surprisingly eloquent and entertaining speech on racism — actually took place back on Jan. 24, a full week before Bobbi Kristina was hospitalized. So, you know, ease off, OK?

Bobbi Kristina

Chris's run for the border is denied

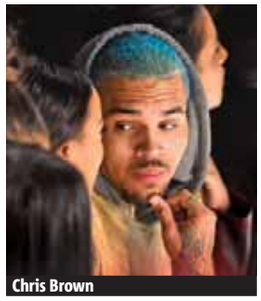
The "good people of the Canadian government" turned singer and felon Chris Brown away at the Canadian border Tuesday, forcing the cancellation of his scheduled shows in Toronto and Montreal.

"The good people of the Canadian government wouldn't allow me entry. I'll be back this summer and will hopefully see all my Canadian fans!" Brown tweeted. "Unfortunately I will not be able to perform in front of sold out crowds in Montreal & Toronto."

The tour promoter, Live Nation, confirmed that the Between the Sheets Tour dates featuring Chris Brown, Trey Songz & Tyga at the Bell Centre in Montreal scheduled for Tuesday, and at the Air Canada Center in Toronto scheduled for Wednesday were cancelled "due to immigration issues."

Refunds will be available at the point of purchase, a spokesperson said.

Brown pleaded guilty to the assault of his then-girlfriend R&B star Rihanna in 2009. While still on probation, he assaulted a man outside of a Washington, D.C. hotel in 2013. He pleaded guilty to the assault of that man, Parker Isaac Adams, last September.



Chris Brown

According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC), people with criminal convictions for various offences, including assault, can be deemed "criminally inadmissible" from entering Canada and denied entry.

Convicted felons can appeal to a border guard that they have been rehabilitated or apply through a formal process to prove they have been rehabilitated in order to be let into the country, according to CIC. Their success depends on the severity of the crime, the time that has passed and if they have re-offended.

Other celebrities have been denied entry to Canada, including Martha Stewart in 2005 and actor Wes Bentley in 2012.

JESSICA SMITH CROSS/ METRO IN TORONTO

Will Vogue finally nab Kate for its September issue?

As is common knowledge, the September issue of Vogue is a very big deal. Possibly the biggest deal in the fashion bible's year. So it's probably not that surprising that Anna Wintour has set her sights on Kate Middleton for the cover this year. "In the digital age, there is even more pressure to deliver huge sales numbers. Anna knows landing Kate for the September issue would be a huge coup, especially since Prince William's wife has never done a magazine feature for a U.S. publication," a source tells Radar Online. "Anna has been trying for the last two years to get Kate to agree, and she's always refused. But this time, Anna has stepped up the campaign and is now enlisting her numerous high-powered connections." So, you know, stay tuned.

The Duchess of Cambridge

Actor Thomas Lennon and actor-executive producer Matthew Perry will co-star in CBS's The Odd Couple, a reboot that has been modernized to reflect issues facing single guys in their 40s. FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES/FILE

This time around, Perry plays the slob

Television. Did you think that the ex-Friend would be the uptight half of The Odd Couple? You're not the only one

Matthew Perry knows that, given his history on Friends and elsewhere, everyone was expecting him to play the persnickety Felix Unger on the new version of the The Odd Couple, but he swears he's better suited for his role as the slovenly Oscar Madison.

Maybe you don't need much convincing, since the debut episode was the most-watched new series premiere this season, with 13.6 million viewers. Just in case, though, he's got some compelling reasons for giving the reboot a shot.

Because he's a diehard fan of the original — and then some

"I was such a big fan of the movie that I know the movie by heart and I loved the TV show as well, but mostly the movie is what really drove me to want to play Oscar. I co-wrote the pilot and it was difficult to not just put every line from the movie in the script. And one of the biggest laughs in our first episode is a line directly from the movie. I say, 'You leave little notes for me: We're out of corn flakes, FU, We're out of socks, FU. It took me two days to figure out that FU was Felix Unger.' That line is in the pilot."

Because it's OK to wonder why Matt LeBlanc isn't in it

"We've already done that — and Matt LeBlanc would be an Oscar, too, and I'm playing Oscar. People, when they heard I was doing The Odd Couple, they thought I would play Felix, I think because Chandler was more of a Felix-type character. I think when you are on a show for as long as I was, people do have a certain expectation, and it's your job to go away from that a little bit. This character of Oscar is very different than Chandler."

Because why mess with a classic formula?

"It's been 30 or 40 years since the show has been on, and it's such a fun character to play and the dynamic of two guys who have to live together who drive each other crazy is just a perfect sitcom dynamic. And playing Oscar Madison is a dream come true. We've modernized the show so it's more modern-day and dealing with relationships and two guys in their 40s trying to date and being single out there."

NED EHRBAR/METRO IN HOLLYWOOD

Music. Arcade Fire member rallies for Greece in new song

As Greece's new government fights to turn the page on harsh austerity measures, it's receiving support from an unexpected source — Will Butler of indie rock band Arcade Fire.

Butler released a song entitled Clean Monday, named for the start of the Greek Orthodox period of Lent, which took place this week as Greece was drawing up a list of reforms in return for a bailout extension.

To synthesized strings, piano and a catchy bass line, Butler sings, "Take your robe off / Take out your thumbs / It's just about some money loss."

"You know we're not scared / Of what could happen / If you leave us standing on our feet," he sings.

Butler debuted the song for The Guardian as part of a project to write a song each day based on the headlines in the British newspaper.

Butler, writing in the newspaper, said he liked the youthfulness of Greece's new left-leaning government and Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis, a professor-turned-politician who is negotiating with creditors and Germany, which has championed a hard line over Greece's economic crisis.

"I'm rooting for Greece," Butler wrote. "I mean, broadly, who the hell isn't rooting for Greece? Even if you're super right-wing, or super German, or super capitalist you probably don't want Greece tumbling out of the euro and defaulting on its debts," he wrote.

Butler, who is known for his skill at multiple instruments, was raised in Texas before joining his brother, lead singer Win Butler, in Montreal-based Arcade Fire. AFP

Will Butler GETTY IMAGES FILE

Television

Modern Family episode occurs on computer screen

How to keep the "modern" in Modern Family in its sixth season? Create an episode that plays out completely on a computer and in the realm of social media. That's what's in store on Wednesday's Connection Lost episode, which revolves around Claire Dunphy's (Julie Bowen) frantic effort to locate daughter Haley (Sarah Hyland) after they squabble. Other than a few scenes shot with the MacBook Pro, the episode was captured entirely with iPhone 6s and iPads. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A scene from Modern Family. TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX TELEVISION

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Hoggard stoked to host Junos

Music. Hedley singer Jacob Hoggard ready to send up his peers as host of awards show

Jacob Hoggard of Hedley is used to performing at awards shows, but at next month's Junos he'll be taking on a new role as host. GETTY IMAGES

When Hedley's Jacob Hoggard takes the stage to host this year's Juno Awards, he hopes to channel some of the irreverent wit flaunted by two-time MC Russell Peters.

Some, but not all, perhaps. Hoggard needs to maintain friendships in the Canadian music industry, whereas Peters was comfortable to gleefully skewer it.

"I thought Russell killed it — he's such a natural onstage. I think more than anything else I'm envious of his comedic licence to just cut everybody to shreds," said Hoggard, who was announced as Junos host on Tuesday morning.

"I'm a little jealous of that. I probably can't treat my peer group the same. But there's always room for a sideways remark.

"Ultimately," he added, "I'm holding the microphone and it's live. So if I truly feel like it, I can exact judgment."

Reggae-infused Toronto pop outfit Magic! leads with five nominations heading into the March 15 bash at Hamilton's FirstOntario Centre, while Montreal's dark poet Leonard Cohen and Calgary dance breakout Kiesza charge in with four nominations apiece.

As Hoggard familiarized himself with the list of nominees, however, he emphasized that there would be no way to anticipate the evening's storyline.

"If there was ever an episode that Unsolved Mysteries hasn't done, it would be on the Junos — because it's one of the most enigmatic processes we've experienced as far as who wins, and why, and how," said Hoggard, whose band has now been nominated 29 times — including three times this year — and won only twice.

"There's always surprises and you never know why, ultimately. But I think that's what's exciting about it.

"Throughout the whole music business, no one has a ... clue what's going to happen."

Also performing

Hedley will also perform during the Junos telecast, along with dance producer Deadmau5, Magic! and hometown rockers Arkells.

- Hoggard hints that if he has a Neil Patrick Harris-style production number in him, it could emerge there.

This is one of several instances where Hoggard punctuates his point with profanity. Given that the Junos are broadcast live in parts of the country (on CTV), does he expect nervous producers will keep a finger on the delay?

"Interestingly enough, it's not my first foray in live television working with these exact same producers — they're the producers who put on Canadian Idol," said Hoggard, who finished in third place on the reality singing competition's second season.

"They were in the room when I first walked in 10 years ago, so we have a great rapport ... In one respect, it's sort of a very full-circle sort of thing for me."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cable television

Jeanne Beker joins Shopping Channel

Jeanne Beker GETTY IMAGES

Fashion guru Jeanne Beker is taking on a new position as style editor at The Shopping Channel.

Rogers Media says the former Fashion Television personality will also host The Shopping Channel's new live show, Style Matters with Jeanne Beker.

The program will feature everything from her personal style to accessories and home decor.

It will premiere on March 12 at 8 p.m. ET on TSC and tsc.ca, as well as the ShopTSC mobile app for iPhone and Android.

In a statement, she says her "aim is to empower every woman's 'inner editor' and help her make the choices that will best suit her own unique style voice." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reality TV

Former Dragon takes up Dancing

Robert Herjavec is going from the Den to the dance floor.

The Canadian-raised former Dragons' Den and current Shark Tank personality has joined the 20th season of Dancing With the Stars.

The entrepreneur was featured in six seasons of Dragons' Den — for which he won three Gemini Awards — and has starred in all six seasons of its American counterpart, Shark Tank.

His partner on Dancing With the Stars will be Australian ballroom dancer Kym Johnson.

The new season premieres March 16 on ABC.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Robert Herjavec GETTY IMAGES

From kissing Kelly to Better Call Saul

Patrick Fabian stars in AMC's Breaking Bad spinoff, Better Call Saul. GETTY IMAGES

For a certain segment of the TV-viewing audience, Patrick Fabian is best known as the guy who romanced Kelly Kapowski on Saved by the Bell: The College Years.

Now that he's logged a few episodes as a smarmy lawyer on the Breaking Bad spinoff Better Call Saul, Fabian says he's ready to finally shake that long-ago role.

"When I got the job, actually a friend of mine texted me and he said, "Hey, maybe 'he kissed Kelly Kapowski on Saved by the Bell' will no longer be on your tombstone," Fabian chuckles during a recent phone interview from Los Angeles.

Fabian's Better Call Saul turn as Howard Hamlin follows dozens of mostly guest appearances and supporting roles all over the dial, from The Newsroom to Scandal to Castle to 24.

He gushes over his current role as a hotshot lawyer on the quirky AMC series, which traces the origins of Breaking Bad strip mall lawyer Saul Goodman, played by Bob Odenkirk, to when he was known as struggling public defender Jimmy McGill.

Monday's episode racheted up the tension between Jimmy and Hamelin. Jimmy erected a highway billboard advertising his floundering legal services, while also aping Hamelin's blue-chip firm.

A fuming Hamelin is on a mission to put Jimmy in his place, and Fabian hints that could lead to more clashes between the two lawyers.

"He didn't get to be the head of a 125-employee top white-collar law firm in Albuquerque by being nice the whole way," Fabian notes of his sun-kissed character.

Of course, there's not much Fabian is willing to reveal about future episodes.

Not that he's necessarily privy to all of the show's secrets. He says plot surprises were heavily guarded on set, with scripts often partially redacted.

Fabian didn't even know the Breaking Bad character Tuco would appear on the show until he saw the finished episode.

"It was like we were working in the NSA or something like that," he jokes.

"So when I saw the pilot and all of sudden Tuco comes out, I'm like, 'No way, man!' I was thrilled of course, it was such a great thing. I had so many people texting me. All they did was just text: 'Tuco!'"

Better Call Saul airs Mondays. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The world's best beaches

Looking for the sexiest beach in the world? Head to Miami. ISTOCK

Seeking sun and sand?

1. Best unusual beach: Red Beach, Santorini, Greece
2. Best family beach: Seaside, Fla.
3. Best beach for adventure: Praia do Futuro, Fortaleza, Brazil
4. Best beach boardwalks: Coney Island, N.Y.
5. Best party beach: La Barra, Punta del Este, Uruguay
6. Best exotic beach: Ilhabela, Brazil
7. Best beach bar: VICE also known as Nissakia Surf Club, Artemida, Greece

List. Swimsuit models, kitesurfers and other beach bums have curated this winter's most critical guide

Best party beach: Punta del Este in Uruguay. ISTOCK

Best unusual beach: Red Beach in Santorini, Greece. ISTOCK

A panel of 'beach experts' that includes a Sports Illustrated Swimsuit model and professional kitesurfer has helped determine a list of the world's best beaches for families, romance and people watching.

With most of Canada in the throes of a deep freeze, the Travel Channel has released the results of its annual Best Beach Awards 2015 just in time to offer the winter-weary a virtual, seaside escape ahead of spring break.

For those shopping for an adults-only beach that offers a pulsing nightlife and teeny polka-dot bikinis, head to Miami, Fla., which snagged the title of sexiest beach.

"Soft sand, beautiful warm water, interesting people, volleyball and fun spots to go to for a bite or a beverage nearby," says swimsuit model Nina Agdal. Another plus? "... it's acceptable to wear tiny bikinis."

Couples seeking a romantic, tropical escapade may want to head to Little Dix Bay in the British Virgin Islands, which was named the most romantic beach for its hidden coves, luxurious resorts, and "barefoot elegance."

And for sun-seekers looking for a beach destination that's far from the madding crowds, consider the best beach you've never heard of, Lake Atitlan in Guatemala, suggests Travel Channel.

As the deepest lake in Central America, Lake Atitlan is located in the highlands of Guatemala in a volcanic crater and has been called one of the most beautiful lakes in the world.

"Nestled in the valley of three volcanoes (one of them still active), you'll not only take in peaceful volcanic views, but also absorb the vibrant pink, yellow and blue colours of the surrounding vegetation." AFP

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Bucket list

Upper Rhine Valley

Can't decide between France, Germany or Switzerland this summer? Hit all three by heading to the Upper Rhine Valley. The Alsace, Black Forest and Basel regions have a lot of things to see and do — not to mention eat and drink — whether you start in Basel, Frankfurt or Paris (Strasbourg, the de facto capital of the European Union, is just a two and a half hour train ride from Paris). Soak up the architecture in the quaint cities of Freiburg and Colmar, stop at a floating wine bar in Alsace, take a train ride through the vineyards, or experience a Baden-Baden spa. Visit UpperRhineValley.com. DOUG WALLACE/METRO

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Twice the fun in the sun

Island hopping. A trip that combines stops in Dominica and Barbados offers equal parts adventure and relaxation

The beach in Speightstown, Barbados, where Juma's Restaurant is located. PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When the urge to escape the winter grind strikes, and you don't want to just relax on the beach, you need to find a sun destination that also offers a mild dose of adventure. Enter the Caribbean islands of Dominica and Barbados, each with its own allure.

Getting dirty in Dominica

A rugged, hard-to reach, self-proclaimed "nature island" dropped into the Lesser Antilles, Dominica is as far away from the all-inclusive Caribbean experience as you can get. Instead of bands of tranquil beaches crawling with tourists, it's covered with lush rain forest and enough trails to keep you hiking for weeks.

Climb down Wavine Cyrique, a vertical trail of tangled mangrove roots and improvised rope ladders.

You'll quickly learn that Dominica always rewards a struggle. When you reach the bottom, you'll find yourself in a scene straight out of Pirates of the Caribbean with a secluded black sand beach, a waterfall shooting off the cliff into the rough sea and a coconut tree swaying lazily in the breeze.

Dominica is full of small astonishments like that. After scrambling over muddy rocks and wading through rivers for an hour, you'll suddenly find yourself faced with a powerful waterfall emptying into a basin of turquoise water — perfect for swimming. Snorkelling, you'll not only enjoy watching neon fish and sea cucumbers, but thanks to the island's volcanic activity, you are surrounded by sparkling bubbles that give the spot its name: Champagne Reef. At night, you can curl up in a comfortably furnished yurt at a property called Mermaid's Secret, falling asleep to the calls of crickets and frogs.

But sometimes you need a "vacation from the vacation," as they say. Dominica's isolated natural beauty enchants, but after five days of exploring, your muscles may be tied up in knots and legs criss-crossed with scratches. Before heading back to snow, make time for that perfect beach day by tacking Barbados onto your itinerary.

Beach on a budget in Barbados

Barbados is on Dominica's flight path (flights also pass through Antigua) and it's also relatively easy on the wallet. Its postcard-perfect beaches are free and public transportation is simple to navigate. Almost every time you step onto the street, a van pulls up, ready to whisk you away.

With a little legwork you can find perfectly secluded beaches in Barbados. Juma's Restaurant, in Speightstown, is an easy favourite. Pool-calm waters, an immaculate stretch of sand and free use of lounge chairs and umbrellas make it the island's best-kept secret. For an inexpensive lunch you can buy a sandwich for $5.

On the other side of the island, try Bottom Bay. With its dramatic cliffs and foamy waters, it's clear to see why it's popular for fashion shoots. There are no restaurants nearby, so pack a picnic, but you can buy a pina colada in a fresh coconut on-site. Still, there's a time and place for crowds in the Caribbean. On Friday nights, tourists and locals alike descend on Oistins Fish Fry, an outdoor bazaar of restaurant shacks that fix up overflowing plates of fish, plantains and macaroni for $15. As the night goes on, the music turns up, more locals join in, and the stage becomes a freewheeling dance scene where everybody shows off their moves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- **Dominica.** Wavine Cyrique, located south of Rosalie. Mermaid's Secret, in Rosalie, mermaids-secret.co.uk, $89-$99 a night. Champagne Reef Dive & Snorkel: champagnereef.com
- **Barbados.** Juma's Restaurant, No. 2 West End, Queen Street, Speightstown, jumasrestaurant.com. Oistins Fish Fry: barbados.org/oistins-fish-fry.htm

Hikers are rewarded with great sights in Dominica.

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Affordable alternatives for a fun-filled March Break

Family holidays. Try these close-to-home quick getaways

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

If a sun or ski vacation is not in the family plans this March Break, there are plenty of affordable options closer to home that will ensure your kid's break is a happy one.

Toronto's Le Dolci foodie studio is offering a culinary day camp between March 16 and March 20, which will allow your young chef to experiment and test his or her skills in the kitchen. Everything from marshmallows and truffles to crepes and pies is on the menu. Parents can sign their kids up for one day or the whole week.

A huge benefit to living in our nation's capital is the number of outstanding museums available to you. Ottawa's Bytown Museum has a redesigned Youth Activity Area where kids can learn more about Ottawa's early beginnings through historic toys and journal entries. There's also an interactive scavenger hunt through two floors of the museum, leading kids to find seven hidden stories to form a timeline of early Ottawa. As a final nod to this long, cold winter, check out the Canadian Museum of Nature's Arctic Food Fair offering bannock, Arctic berry tea and bison sliders. There's also a giant Arctic floor map that teaches regional geography and natural history.

The Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. ISTOCK

March in Quebec is the start of sugaring-off season. If you can't make it out of the city, the Montréal Botanical Garden will be offering presentations on maple syrup as well as the chance to taste your own rolled maple taffy.

Edmontonians looking to spend some family outdoor time can take the short 40-minute drive to Elk Island National Park. The park is offering a three-hour guided snowshoe tour through its vast trails, giving you the chance to spy deer, bison and moose. Lunch is included.

If you prefer some indoor fun, Vancouver's popular Playdome at BC Place Stadium runs again this year from March 14 to March 22. With 45 rides and attractions, including a Ferris wheel and tilt-a-whirl, it is western Canada's largest indoor carnival. The daily Dome Pass will set you back $29.

Cruise

Disney casts spell on Cruise Critic editors

For the third year in a row, Disney Cruise Line has been named the "Best Overall" cruise ship by TripAdvisor's Cruise Critic Cruisers' Choice Awards.

While guests can expect an omnipresent Mickey on both subtle and extreme levels, Cruise Critic editors note that the ship doesn't forget their adult guests, with art deco that's at once elegant and refined and evocative of old-world luxury.

Innovative features and services include digital paintings that come to life, virtual portholes for inside cabins, onboard mystery expeditions, and an adults-only pool. TEXT: AFP
PHOTO: GETTY

Deal

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Save on select 2015 voyages to the Arctic with Quark Expeditions when you book before March 30. Routes include three different Greenland adventures, Baffin Island and the High North, and an Iceland circumnavigation, all embarking from Aug. 3 to Sept. 17. You'll find bigger savings on the premium cabins. Northern lights, here we come. Visit QuarkExpeditions.com.
TEXT: DOUG WALLACE/METRO
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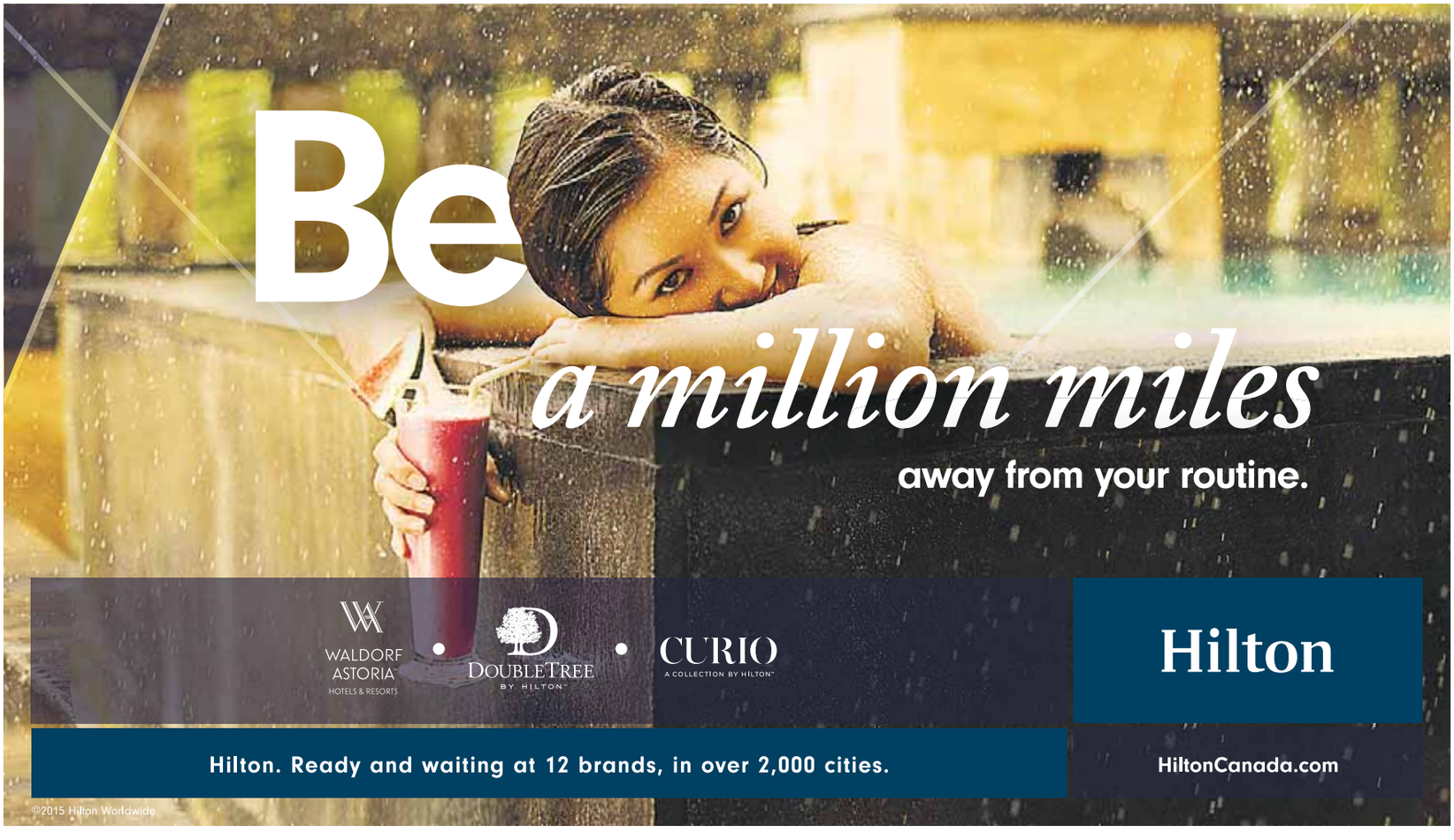

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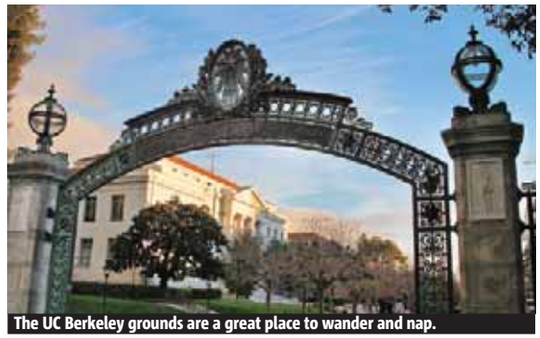
Things to do in Berkeley when you're broke

California. The Golden State doesn't have to take all your gold — here are a few free options to enjoy

Tilden Park, set in the hills above Berkeley, is the jewel of Berkeley's green spaces. PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


The UC Berkeley grounds are a great place to wander and nap.

This famously liberal college town is known as the cradle of the Free Speech Movement, but speech isn't the only thing that's free here.

Whether you're strolling the redwood-shaded University of California, Berkeley, campus, or slipping across the Oakland border for a dose of Golden State history, you can exercise your limbs and your intellect without giving your wallet a workout.

Here are a few suggestions to get you started on your gratis gallivanting.

Hike

Set in the hills above Berkeley, Tilden Park is the jewel of Berkeley's many green spaces. You can take one of the many hiking trails — Nimitz Way is popular with bikers, hikers and equestrians — or picnic in one of the meadows. If you have young ones in tow, a stop by the Little Farm is mandatory; take along some celery or lettuce to feed the placid animals.

If you do decide to spend a little cash, there are modest fees to enter the Lake Anza swimming beach, ride the vintage carousel or ride a miniature steam train. If you're looking for a straightforward walk, another option is Claremont Canyon, which offers a short climb to the ridge top with sweeping views of campus and San Francisco Bay. This is especially lovely at sunset, although be aware the last part of the trail is both steep and slippery.

Smell the roses and the puya raimondii

Oakland and Berkeley both have rose gardens tucked into residential areas. The Berkeley garden is a Works Progress Administration project and has a terraced amphitheatre and redwood pergola. The Oakland garden, officially the Morcom Rose Garden, is a relaxing oasis not far from bustling Grand Avenue with its eclectic mix of restaurants, coffee bars and stores. For major flower power, there's the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, which has more than 13,000 plants from around the world, including the puya raimondii plant, known as the "Queen of the Andes," that's in the South American section. There's a $10 fee to visit most days, but the garden is free on the first Wednesday of each month.

Camp out on campus

The UC Berkeley campus is easily accessible. Here you can stroll along redwood-lined creeks or stretch out on the grass. Check out the landmark bell tower (Campanile). It costs $3 to take the elevator and stairs to the top, but you can enjoy the sound of the tower's 61 bells anywhere on campus. Music plays at various times with longer concerts on Sundays at 2 p.m.

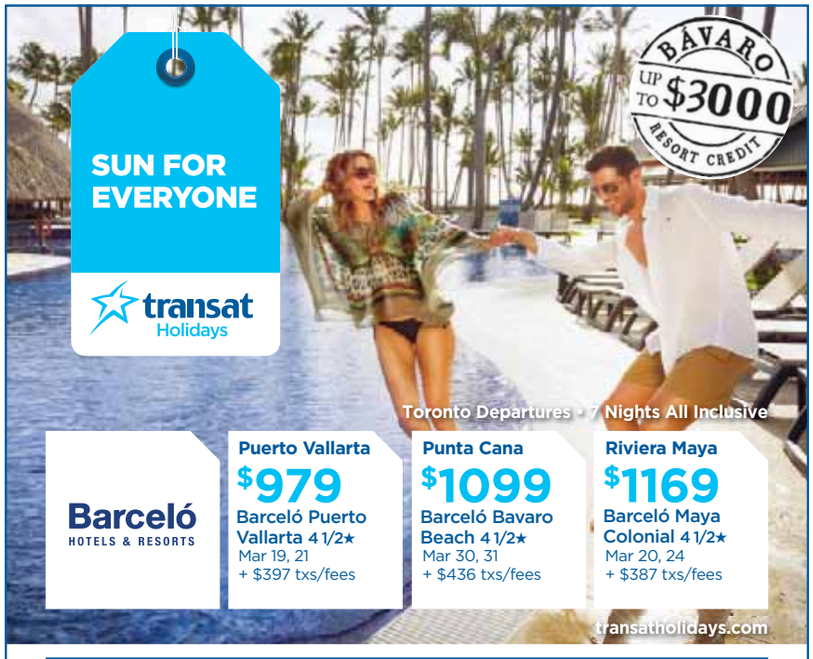
Step into history

Jack London was born in San Francisco, but spent his boyhood on the Oakland waterfront, and you'll find him immortalized there by way of a bronze statue at Jack London Square, a retail and restaurant complex. There's also a replica of his log cabin next to Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon where London studied as a schoolboy and later made notes for his books. Not far away you'll find the Oakland Museum of California which features exhibits on art, history and the natural sciences and charges no admission on the first Sunday of the month.

See the street scene

You haven't really visited Berkeley unless you've strolled Telegraph Avenue, a collection of bookstores, cafés and other stores lined by vendors selling various arts and crafts. Stop in at Amoeba Music to see the huge record collection and take in the mural at the corner of Haste Street and Telegraph commemorating the creation of People's Park, a UC-owned block of land taken over by student and community activists in 1969.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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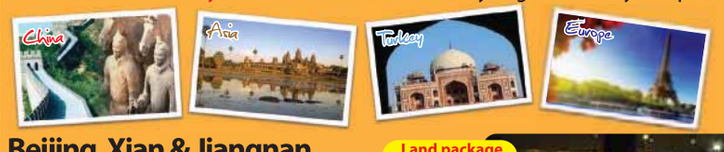

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It goes without saying that a selfie is not always the best option for your professional portrait. ISTOCK

Think of your LinkedIn photo as the headline of a news article — it's the first thing people will see, and it might be the only thing that they remember later. Like all first impressions in business, you want to put your best foot (or in this case, your best face) forward. Your profile picture should convey professionalism, trustworthiness, competence and likability. Here's how you can make sure your LinkedIn profile is picture perfect.

Solo shot

You are the star of your LinkedIn profile, and you should be the only one in your profile picture. Group shots and family portraits are not acceptable as having multiple people in your picture is confusing for viewers. It also makes you look unprofessional, and gives viewers the impression that you don't understand LinkedIn etiquette.

Choose a picture that includes everything from the shoulders up, with 50 to 60 per cent of the picture being occupied by your face. Full body shots, extreme close-ups, and cropped group shots are a no-no.

Crop It

When it comes to pictures on various social networks, you can't take a one-size-fits all approach. Make sure your image is optimized for LinkedIn specifically by cropping it to a square for best use across the website. Do a quick Internet search to find a reference tool for the correct image types and sizes for all social networks (including LinkedIn), so you can optimize your images to look great at any size. (sproutsocial.com is a great place to start)

Quality is key

Your LinkedIn picture is the face of your online professional brand, so a high-quality image is essential. Ideally, you should invest in a professional headshot. Professional photography will show you in your best light, and most photographers will be able to coach you into better posture and a good facial expression.

If professional pictures are not an option, recruit a friend with a good camera to help you out. Make sure to take lots of photos so you have options.

A high resolution picture, even if it's not professional, beats a low-res webcam picture any day.

Dress for success

It's important to dress appropriately for the job or the industry you want. What would you wear to an interview at your desired company or to an industry event? Keeping in mind that the picture will only show your upper body, pay special attention to your neckline, collar, hair and makeup.

Pick jewelry and accessories carefully. While a statement necklace might look great in person, it might not translate well on camera. It's best to avoid busy patterns and very sparkly jewelry.

Choose a background that will let you stand out, preferably something that slightly contrasts your outfit. A neutral background (black, white or grey) is always a safe bet, but locations like an office, historical building, or an outdoor setting will work well, too.

Get a second opinion

- When in doubt, ask a friend what they think of your picture. Ask what message it conveys about you, what they think of your facial expression, outfit, and if the quality is sufficient. If you want more objective feedback, try a tool like www.photofeeler.com, that lets users rate your photo based on metrics like competence, likability, influence, and trustworthiness.

Choose a picture that looks like you

This seems obvious, but there are a shocking number of profiles with decade-old pictures, or individuals who got a little too heavy-handed with Photoshop.

Make sure you pick a photo that actually looks like you, so recruiters or potential employers can recognize you when meet. When it comes to Photoshop, some retouching is acceptable, but save the magazine-worthy makeover for your other social networks. Update your picture frequently (every two to three years is sufficient), or if you make a major change to your appearance.

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Meatballs ditch their spaghetti sidekick

Dinner or Appetizers. This dish stuffs the meat with ricotta and replaces pasta with polenta for a totally new twist on an old favourite

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

This recipe I developed for the Dairy Farmers of Canada is a different way to serve up meatballs to your family and friends than the typical spaghetti and meatballs dish.

The addition of ricotta inside the meatball is one of my favourite twists.

If you don't have fresh bread crumbs, soak stale bread in milk or water and break up into small pieces and add to meat mixture.

Cooked meatballs can be covered and refrigerated for up to two days, which will speed up your dinner time.

This recipe makes 16 large meatballs that work as 16 appetizer servings or 6 to 8 servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Directions

1. Ricotta Filling: In a bowl, stir together ricotta, bread crumbs, parsley and salt. Roll into 16 little balls; set aside.

2. Meatballs: In large bowl, mix together veal, pork, bread crumbs, egg, Parmesan, parsley, garlic and salt until well combined. Using wet hands, divide mixture into 16 balls. Flatten each ball and place a ricotta ball in centre; pinch meat around the ricotta ball and roll into a large meatball.

3. Place on parchment paper lined baking sheet. Bake in preheated 350 F (180 C) oven for about 15 minutes or until no longer pink inside, but not browned.

4. Pour half of the pasta sauce in a 13 x 9-inch (3 L) glass baking dish. Add meatballs to sauce and pour remaining sauce over top. Cover and bake for about 30 minutes or sauce is bubbly.

5. Creamy Polenta: Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, bring milk and water to a simmer over medium heat; gradually whisk in cornmeal and salt. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook, whisking often, for about 15 minutes or until polenta is very creamy and thick.

6. Stir Parmesan into polenta and divide among serving plates; place meatball on top and spoon sauce over top.

Ingredients

Ricotta Filling
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) ricotta cheese
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) fresh bread crumbs
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped fresh parsley
- Pinch salt

Meatballs
- 12 oz (375 g) each ground veal and pork
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) fresh bread crumbs
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) finely chopped fresh parsley
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- 3 cups (750 ml) homemade or store-bought pasta sauce, heated

Creamy Polenta
- 3 cups (750 ml) milk
- 1 cup (250 ml) water
- 1 cup (250 ml) cornmeal
- 1 tsp (5 ml) salt
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) freshly grated Parmesan cheese

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MLB

"I haven't changed at all."

Right-fielder Giancarlo Stanton who signed a record $325-million, 13-year contract with the Miami Marlins in November. Despite missing the final 17 games, he led the National League with 37 home runs and he's only 25. He arrived at spring training in Jupiter, Fla., in the same old Maserati he drove last year. It didn't even sport a vanity plate.

NBA

"I figure if LeBron can go home ... why can't I?"

Kevin Garnett at his re-introductory press conference on Tuesday in Minneapolis. Nearly eight years after he left Minnesota, the power forward's goal hasn't changed. He still wants to bring a championship to the Timberwolves. That may not happen as a player for the 38-year-old. Garnett also said he's in this for the long haul and hopes to one day own the team.

Hernandez trial

Garbage video played for jury

Prosecutors in the murder trial of former New England Patriots player Aaron Hernandez on Tuesday played video surveillance that showed his fiancée removing a trash bag from the home and putting it in a car the day after the victim was killed.

Hernandez is charged with the June 2013 killing of Odin Lloyd, who was dating the sister of his fiancée, Shayanna Jenkins.

On several video clips played for the jury Tuesday, Jenkins is seen leaving the basement of the home with a trash bag that contains what looks like a large box. She puts down the bag and rearranges what appears to be clothing on top. Then she walks through the backyard and is shown putting the box in the trunk of her sister's car.

The .45-calibre Glock that investigators say was the murder weapon has never been found. Carlos Ortiz, who is also charged in the murder but being tried separately, told police Hernandez put guns in a box in his basement after the killing, and prosecutors have said Jenkins disposed of a box from the basement after receiving a coded text message from Hernandez.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Raptors' road trip swings through Dallas

Raptors guard Lou Williams knocks the ball loose from the Mavericks' Monta Ellis on Tuesday night in Dallas. The Raptors were coming off of a 100-97 loss to the Pelicans on Monday. For the story, go to metronews.ca. LM OTERO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donaldson brings positivity to Jays

MLB. Third baseman seen as a high-energy 'go-getter' by manager

Blue Jays third baseman Josh Donaldson cranked 29 home runs and 98 RBIs for the Athletics last season. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Josh Donaldson remembers going into the Oakland locker-room after hitting his first big-league home run in 2010 as a rookie against the Blue Jays.

Nobody said anything to him about the homer — his first major-league hit.

Now Toronto's third baseman, Donaldson plans to celebrate his new teammates' successes. In a game where failing seven times out of 10 at the plate is considered very good, the 29-year-old all-star says there's plenty of room for positives.

"You win a game, a guy has a big hit, hey, I'm going to be the first one to come up and give you some love and make sure that you know we appreciate that," he said Tuesday, "and that we appreciate you and what you've done."

Donaldson, traded in November for third baseman Brett Lawrie, pitchers Sean Nolin and Kendall Graveman and minor-league shortstop Franklin Barreto, is more than a rah-rah guy. He seems comfortable in his own skin and aware that if those around him succeed, he prospers, too.

He says he learned from veteran Jonny Gomes that it helps having people around you who show they care.

"Because baseball's a tough game and it can definitely make you crazy," Donaldson said. "So you need those guys that ... when you're not feeling your best, are going to make you believe that you're probably better than what you're feeling at the time."

Donaldson's drive and positivity are already prized by Toronto.

"He's a go-getter, he's high energy," said manager John Gibbons.

"You love the guys who bring energy," he added. "Baseball, you're playing it every day. These guys get worn down and you don't want a bunch of dead-asses. You need some guys that have got some spunk."

Donaldson was eighth in AL MVP voting last season, hitting .255 with 29 home runs and 98 RBIs in 158 games. He was fourth in AL MVP voting the year before.

He recently lost his salary arbitration case. His camp had asked for $5.75 million US but instead got $4.3 million.

"I felt like I was winning no matter what," said Donaldson, who made the minimum of $500,000 the last two years.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Working on a deal

Blue Jays GM Alex Anthopoulos says he believes he can accommodate catcher Dioner Navarro's wish for a change in scenery. He's just not sure when.

- Navarro, who has lost his starting job to newly acquired Russell Martin, has asked to be moved so he can play every day.

4 SPORTS

Suarez loosening up

Champions League. Uruguayan scores twice for Barcelona win at Man City

After a disappointing start for Barcelona, Luis Suarez is gradually finding his mojo. On Tuesday, he overshadowed Neymar, right, and Messi, not in the picture, in their victory in Manchester. RUI VIEIRA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Luis Suarez finally emerged from Lionel Messi's shadow at Barcelona by scoring twice in a 2-1 win over Manchester City on Tuesday, putting the Spanish club within sight of the Champions League quarter-finals for an eighth straight year.

Suarez has found goals harder to come by since moving from Liverpool for $130 million US last summer, but he rediscovered his scoring touch on his return to England with opportunist strikes in the 16th and 30th minutes. His goals capped a dominant first-half display by Barca in the last-16 first leg.

City improved considerably after the break, with Sergio Aguero reducing the deficit in the 69th minute, but the home side lost defender Gael Clichy to a red card and was thankful for Joe Hart's last-minute penalty save from Messi. With the goal at his mercy, the Argentina star headed the rebound wide to give City renewed hope heading into the second leg on March 18.

"If they lost the game 3-1, that is really difficult for (City)," Suarez said. "But 2-1 is a good result for them."

Over-run and outplayed in the first half, City was lucky to go into the break only two goals behind as manager Manuel Pellegrini's decision to play a 4-4-2 formation backfired. Barcelona — with Messi to the fore — exploited the extra space in midfield to create chances at will, and Suarez was clinical.

With seven goals in 22 appearances for Barcelona, Suarez has been steady, if not spectacular, in his first season in Spain and this was the game that he announced himself at the club.

Heads were bowed as the City players left the field at halftime, while the "oles" from the small section of Barca supporters had begun in the 23rd minute.

"We couldn't put three passes together in the first half," Pellegrini said. "There was a bit of confusion but we managed to be calmer in the second (half)." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In Torino, Italy

Juventus settled for a narrow 2-1 victory over Borussia Dortmund in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie on Tuesday to leave it all to play in the return fixture in Germany.

Carlos Tevez fired Juventus ahead in the 13th minute but Dortmund soon levelled through striker Marco Reus following a terrible slip by Giorgio Chiellini.

Alvaro Morata restored Juve's lead before halftime to provide a slender advantage for the second leg on March 18.

2022 edition

Fall-winter Qatar World Cup almost a done deal

Long seen as inevitable, a 2022 World Cup in November and December is now practically a done deal.

A FIFA task force on Tuesday recommended playing the tournament in Qatar at the end of the year in 2022 to avoid the summer heat. Temperatures in the Gulf emirate routinely top 40 degrees when the World Cup traditionally kicks off in June.

A Dec. 23 final in Doha is possible as FIFA aims to shorten the tournament from the current 32-day schedule to ease disruption for players, clubs and leagues worldwide.

The plan should be approved by the FIFA executive committee, chaired by President Sepp Blatter in March. Blatter, who is an IOC member, has long favoured November-December to avoid clashing with the Winter Olympics, scheduled for February 2022. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennis

Raonic to lead Canada versus Japan at Davis Cup

Milos Raonic of Thornhill, Ont., will lead Canada's team in next month's Davis Cup tie against Japan.

Canada's top-ranked men's singles player will be joined by doubles veteran Daniel Nestor of Toronto, Vasek Pospisil of Vancouver and Frank Dancevic of Niagara Falls, Ont., for the World Group first-round tie, to be held March 6-8 at the Doug Mitchell Thunderbird Sports Centre in Vancouver. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Price grabs 9th straight road win

Alex Galchenyuk and Brendan Gallagher had two goals apiece and Carey Price set a franchise record with his ninth straight road win for the Montreal Canadiens, who beat the St. Louis Blues 5-2 Tuesday night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

2015 Acura TLX

- **Type.** Four-door, 5-passenger midsize sedan
- **Engines.** 2.4-litre I4 (206); 3.5-litre V6 (290)
- **Transmissions.** 8-speed automatic (I4); 9-speed automatic (V6)
- **Price.** Base $34,990; as-tested $38,690 (plus destination)

Market position

Acura was the first higher-end spinoff by a Japanese company when it debuted in 1986 as a subsidiary of Honda. The TLX bridges the gap between the entry-level ILX and larger RLX.

Points

• The available Tech trim includes forward collision warning, heated rear seats and steering wheel, lane keeping assist, and navigation, among other features.

An all-wheel steering system on FWD models subtly angles the rear wheels on turns for more precise handling.

Interesting features

Standard LED headlamps, sunroof, active noise control, and multi-angle rearview camera; available rain-sensing wipers, road departure mitigation, cross-traffic alert, forward collision warning, and heated steering wheel.

DRIVE

Sedan could use some sparkle

Review. Acura shelves prior sedans to release all new 2015 TLX

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

After more than a decade of offering both the TL and TSX sedans, Acura has split the difference, retired them both, and introduced the new-for-2015 TLX. It's a relatively low-priced entry into the sports sedan category, but it's not going to slay any of the giants that currently control the segment.

It's available with a V6 engine that can be further optioned with Acura's all-wheel system, which the company calls Super-Handling All-Wheel Drive, or SH-AWD. The name is accurate: able to proportion torque between the rear wheels, it does a great job of sticking to the road.

My tester came with the base 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine, mated to an eight-speed dual-clutch automatic transmission. It's a lively little unit, but it's front-wheel drive (as is the V6 if you don't order AWD) in a segment where most of its competition powers the rear wheels. It also needs a little more steering weight and road feel to be truly sporty.

Four settings let you select Econ, Normal, or two Sport Modes, which adjust the engine and transmission response. I usually kept it in Sport, since the economy mode really dragged down the performance, but it defaulted to that Econ mode every time I started the car. It would be nice if it could "remember" my last setting.

The cabin materials are all top-notch, and I like the dual centre console screens. While the top one displayed the navigation included in my car's Tech Package, the bottom one let me adjust the stereo and other features, without having to switch between the two. But some of the functions are distracting, such as a heated seat control that requires you to page through two computer screens just to change the temperature.

The exterior styling carries Acura's signature cues, and the handsome headlights contain LEDs, but the overall middle-of-the-road design is easily lost in a crowd. The Acura TLX is an okay car for the price, but if it's going to make waves in the sports sedan segment, it needs a shot of excitement.

Compare

1 Audi A4
Base price: $38,750
Like the TLX, it comes with front- or all-wheel drive, but features a 220-horsepower turbocharged engine.

2 Infiniti Q50
Base price: $37,500
The regular Q50 uses a V6 and is rear-drive or AWD; a hybrid is also available.

3 Cadillac ATS
Base price: $36,110
Choose from three engines, including a four-cylinder, V6, and turbocharged 2.0-litre making 272 hp.

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Plug-in Volvo tall wagon takes "a leading position"

Releasing full details of the high-tech T8 powertrain that will power the plug-in version of its XC90 tall wagon, Swedish automaker Volvo says it made no compromises to deliver the performance of a luxury vehicle, but with emission levels that even small hybrid cars will struggle to match. "The XC90 T8 is a plug-in electric car, hybrid car and high-performance car rolled into one," said Peter Mertens, senior vice-president for research and development. "The T8 takes it further into a leading position." The XC90 T8 combines an electric motor with Volvo's supercharged and turbocharged Drive-E four-cylinder engine; it can run in electric-only mode for zero-emissions driving, or with the gasoline engine for increased power.

ALL STORIES AND PHOTOS FROM WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

The XC90 can be all things to all people, depending on the mood they happen to be in. There's an all-electric mode or a full-on 400 horsepower with the help of a supercharged and turbocharged four-cylinder engine.

Second-gen Volt goes miles beyond first

With about a third more range in all-electric mode, the second-generation Chevrolet Volt plug-in hybrid is miles ahead of the original extended-range sedan. The new Volt gets an all-new drivetrain, quicker off-the-line acceleration, more sedan-like styling and a quieter interior. With not a single piece of the drivetrain carried over from the original Volt sedan, the new drive unit is about 45 kilograms lighter and will deliver 19 per cent better acceleration, now with two electric motors delivering power to the front wheels. Chevrolet achieved the improvements in part by making the battery cells larger and increasing their storage capacity by 20 per cent, while reducing the number of cells to 192 from the original Volt's 288.

Range, battery capacity and the looks of the second-generation Volt have all been improved.

Shift points

- Cheaper gasoline prices might influence consumers to buy gas guzzlers, but that would be a mistake, says U.S. President Barak Obama. Cautioning in an interview with the The Detroit News daily newspaper that cheap gas prices won't last indefinitely, he encouraged Americans to buy more fuel-efficient vehicles.
- BMW has unveiled its new, heavily restyled 1 Series hatchback, to be powered by a range of the German automaker's new three- and four-cylinder gasoline and diesel-powered engines.
- General Motors is cutting back but not eliminating production of its Chevrolet Sonic and Buick Verano small cars. Its Orion Assembly Plant in Detroit, Mich., will be idled for two weeks in February and April to adjust supply to market demand.

The iQ likely seemed like a good idea, but it was more expensive, smaller and the fuel economy wasn't much better than competitors.

Too small to buy? Toyota stops making iQ

The company has announced it will cease production of its smallest car, the Scion iQ, after the model's size, price and fuel economy failed to attract sufficient buyers, reports industry watchdog, Automotive News. U.S. iQ sales fell 50 per cent to 2,040 in 2014, prompting Scion brand chief Doug Murtha to claim at this year's Detroit Auto Show in January that the iQ "won't be staying in the lineup too much longer." Not all is lost, however. The iQ was a "healthy experiment" that taught the company important lessons about U.S. buyers' tastes. Though Toyota gave the iQ 11 airbags and engineered it to achieve a four-star crash rating, buyers couldn't get comfortable with the three-seater's tiny dimensions, nor could they reconcile the price when compared with the price of larger and more fuel-efficient vehicles in the marketplace.

Quick-charge EV stations bloom across Europe

A network of electric-vehicle quick-charge stations supported by most automakers is springing up across Europe, notes vested interest and EV charger supplier, ChargePoint. Nissan and U.S. EV startup Tesla Motors have their own systems, but a third — the one gaining favour in Europe, called the Combined Charging System (CCS) — is quickly becoming the standard in the quick-charge process there. The European map of CCS sites shows 515 locations, 108 of them in England and another 216 in the contiguous region covering Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, writes alternative vehicle website, Green Car Reports.

Porsche mulls a hybrid-electric 911

Porsche is looking to electrify one of the most iconic cars in sports car history: the 911 coupe. Porsche already offers a plug-in hybrid in its over-the-top and astronomically priced 918 Spyder convertible, and plug-in versions of the Panamera sedan, while a plug-in version of the Cayenne tall wagon arrives later this year. But an electric 911 hybrid presents a special challenge, said Porsche sales and marketing chief, Bernhard Maier. He told the recent Automotive News World Congress, held in Detroit, Mich., that Porsche would need to be careful to ensure that a 911 hybrid delivers the kind of performance customers expect of a car bearing the 911 badge. "It will have to be a true Porsche and a true sports car."

Porsche has raced hybrid versions of the 911.

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Great bang for the buck, but a bit glitchy

Second gear.
2009 to 2014
Hyundai Genesis

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

It was a simple enough proposition for most: Provide your local Hyundai dealer with a relatively small amount of money, and in return, you get the Genesis — a luxury sedan with a price tag designed to make comparably equipped A6 or E-Class models blush.

All high-end convertables were included: navigation, push-button start, window shades, heated and air-conditioned seats, xenon lights, wood trim, and a Lexicon audio system that sounds like it was transplanted directly from a concert hall.

Common Issues

Owners have reported niggling electronics issues ranging from bad window switches and power-folding mirrors that don't return to their position to failed parking sensors. Translation: Check everything that runs on electricity, twice, to be sure it's working properly.

Don't forget to check the navigation system and climate-controlled seats, which will be pricey to repair or replace.

Look for an airbag warning light in the instrument cluster, possibly accompanied by a scratching or scraping noise heard while turning the steering wheel. The likely culprit is a bad clockspring, which facilitates an electrical connection inside of the steering wheel.

Move to the trunk and pull up the rear carpeting and panelling to look for signs of water leaks, which may leave rust, dampness or nasty mould in the area beneath the trunk.

Occasional performance issues, possibly accompanied by a Check Engine light, could be the result of a bad fuel injector. Ask a mechanic to scan the ECM for trouble codes related to the fuel injector.

CONTRIBUTED

What owners like

Owners praise the Genesis for its bang for the buck on high-end features, plenty of space, its stately and upscale look and a luxurious interior. Decent handling, seat comfort and headlight performance round out the list.

What owners dislike

Gripes include the lack of a split-folding rear seat, lack of paddle-shift controls for the transmission, and a too-soft suspension setting on some models.

Engines

Genesis came with a 280-horsepower Lamda-series 3.8-litre V6. Hyundai's Tau series V8 was available on higher-end models, initially displacing 4.6 litres good for 375 horsepower. From 2012, the powerplant got an update that pushed the 3.8 litre engine to 333 horsepower, and added a new 5-litre V8 with 429 hp.

The verdict

Test drive the model you're considering when you've got enough time to confirm proper operation of all features, and have a pre-purchase inspection carried out for maximum peace of mind.

Driving on air with a new set of wheels

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

Cars can't run on air — or at least, not yet. But an experimental gasoline-air hybrid powertrain being developed by PSA Peugeot Citroën harnesses the power of compressed air for propulsion.

"It's the first hybrid based on air," says Hugues Barlow, electrical and electronics director for the company's research centre in Shanghai, China. "It's much cheaper than a battery. And, in the city, it could have a 45 per cent (fuel) saving and reach 2.9 L per 100 kilometres."

In a gasoline-electric hybrid car, an electric motor either runs the vehicle by itself, or works alongside the gas engine to provide maximum power.

The hybrid battery that powers the motor is recharged both by the gas engine and through regenerative braking, which captures kinetic energy created during deceleration and converts it into electricity.

The air hybrid is similar, but instead of an electric motor, it has a hydraulic pump/motor unit and an air tank. The motor and pump recover kinetic and engine energy and use it to compress air in the tank.

The compressed air is then used to run the vehicle by itself, or to augment the gas engine for more power.

"The range on air is quite small — a few hundred metres," Barlow says.

"But it only takes a few seconds to recharge each time. You can use it quite often, and, in the city, you could have 70 to 80 per cent of the time when you are on air mode."

As with a regular hybrid, the Air Hybrid's electronic monitoring system continually and automatically adjusts to the driving conditions, and uses the gasoline engine, compressed air, or a combination to suit the current need.

The air hybrid is still in the prototype stage, but the company says it is looking for a partner to bring it to production. CONTRIBUTED

Thriving under pressure

- In addition to concept cars for auto show displays, Peugeot Citroën has some 15 prototype Air Hybrid vehicles in testing in France.
- A similar hybrid system that uses compressed hydraulic fluid instead of air is already in use in a small number of garbage trucks in the U.S.
- PSA Peugeot Citroën has filed more than 80 patents worldwide for its Air Hybrid technology.

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What test car is Garry bringing us this week? We literally have no clue until it lands in our driveway, but who are we to doubt Garry Sowerby, who has a bazillion Guinness records for around-the-world driving? That's a bazillion more than we have, after all. Come along and find out as we drive 'em, dirty 'em and shoot 'em with our phone cams. These are real-life, no-glam reviews.

JEFF MELNYCHUK
wheelbasemedia.com

Comfort trumps driving pleasure

Special delivery. The 2015 Kia Sedona is designed with safety and relaxation in mind, but doesn't make for an exciting experience

Snowball fights through the two huge side doors? Don't mind if I do. JEFF MELNYCHUK PHOTOS

I read in the news the other that day that someone was shot at while they were driving their minivan. No one was hurt.

Someone on Facebook cheekily commented that if they were driving a minivan and someone shot at them it wouldn't matter because they were already dead anyway. I chuckled a little.

Yes, the poor maligned minivan. It's apparently where your automotive soul goes to die when your entirely practical side wins out over any form of ambition and joy, whatsoever.

Like in the movie Top Gun when fighter-jock Maverick is told that if he screws up "just this much," he'll "be flying a cargo plane full of rubber s— out of Hong Kong." Well, the minivan is the proverbial cargo plane.

I can actually see a bit of this in the hollow look of Garry's eyes when he steps out of the new 2015 Kia Sedona.

But that could also be general exhaustion from dealing with journalists (another form of child) all day long.

Not built for driving pleasure, but rather for driving comfort, vehicles like the Sedona are appliances designed to expertly complete the most mundane of tasks.

And this is actually of paramount importance for anyone who gets a minivan, because if the vehicle takes the most mundane tasks and turns them into painful, wanna-poke-your-eyes-out mundane tasks, then what's the point, really?

Unfortunately — or fortunately, depending on your perspective — I don't have a lot of mundane chores to carry out, or kids to move around to find out if the Sedona functions without making the whole family miserable.

Forward camera hiding in plain sight.

In fact I'm pretty sure I look ridiculous driving it, all by myself, pretending to yell at rowdy youngsters occupying the third-row seat. But I will tell you this: It's like a private jet inside the thing.

Of the various trim levels, this is the best — the SXL+ at a stout $46,000 — with upgraded two-tone black/brown leather (which is specified with the bluish paint) and second-row high-back buckets with lounge-chair-like leg rests.

It's more fun to be the passenger than the pilot of this private jet.

Functionally, it has the same front-drive layout, 278-horsepower 3.3-litre V6, and six-speed automatic transmission as the well-equipped base LX at $30,000.

For the extra cost of a year of university tuition, the SXL+ has far better entertainment and climate control systems and the usual high-end safety electronics to help drivers who have to pay attention to what's going on inside the vehicle as well as what's going on with traffic.

Limited room for gear when every seat is occupied.

Esthetically, there are 19-inch wheels and some chrome pieces, but you'll get varying degrees of that in the middle trims.

I could get used to riding in the Sedona, although not driving it, because as well thought out as it is, it's pretty clear that the vehicle is about comfort and safety over any type of visceral pleasure, which means it's more fun to be a passenger than a driver.

That shouldn't be too shocking, but if necessity should come knocking, you could really do far worse.

It makes practicality a pretty bulletproof existence, even if it's not all that exciting.

High-lows

- **WOWS:** Smooth drive and ease of use helps you cope better with certain painful realities. The base model is priced about the same as a gussied-up Kia Forte5, which means good value. Soft-touch materials dulls sibling rivalry screams from the rear seats.
- **HMMS:** Not the vehicle for mavericks — at all. The top model is skewed toward retired one-per-centers, and not actual families with bills. There is little room for gear when all the seats are filled.

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Titanium Model Shown

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Vehicle(s) may be shown with optional equipment. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers only valid at participating dealers. Retail offers may be cancelled or changed at any time without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. For factory orders, a customer may either take advantage of eligible rainchecks able Ford retail customer promotional incentives/offers available at the time of vehicle factory order or time of vehicle delivery, but not both or combinations thereof. Retail offers not combinable with any CPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFIP). **Until April 30, 2015, lease a new 2015 Ford [Fusion S FWD/Fusion Titanium AWD]/[Escape SE FWD 2.5L with Cargo Package/Escape Titanium] for up to [48/48]/[48/48] months, and get [0%/0%]/[0%/0%] APR on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest APR payment. Lease a 2015 [Fusion S FWD/Fusion Titanium AWD]/[Escape SE FWD 2.5L with Cargo Package/Escape Titanium] with a value of [$22,814/$34,999]/[$26,764/$32,999] (after [$995/$0]/[$995/$0] down payment or equivalent trade-in and [$500/$500]/[$0/$0] Manufacturer Rebate deducted and including freight and air tax of [$1,700/$1,700])/[$1,750/$1,750]) at [0%/0%]/[0%/0%] APR for up to [48/48]/[48/48] months with an optional buyout of [$19,438/$14,000]/[$11,592/$14,175], monthly payment is [$259/$428]/[$280/$377] (Comparison payments are for reference purposes only and are calculated as follows: the monthly payment is annualized (multiplied by 12) and then divided by the comparison period (26 for bi-weekly and 52 for weekly). For example, ([$259/$428]/[$280/$377] x 12) / 26 bi-weekly periods = [$119/$197]/[$129/$174]), total lease obligation is [$13,427/$20,544]/[$14,435/$18,096], interest cost of leasing is [$0/$0]/[$0/$0] or [0%/0%]/[0%/0%] APR. Offers include freight, air tax, and PPSA but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. Additional payments required for optional features, license, and insurance. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Some conditions and mileage restriction of [64,000 km/64,000 km]/[64,000 km/64,000km] for [48/48]/[48/48] months applies. Excess kilometrage charges are 12¢ per km for Fiesta, Focus, C-MAX, Fusion and Escape; 16¢ per km for E-Series, Mustang, Taurus, Taurus X, Edge, Flex, Explorer, F-Series, MKS, MKX, MKZ, MKT and Transit Connect; 20¢ per km for Expedition and Navigator, plus applicable taxes. Excess kilometrage charges subject to change (except in Quebec), see your local dealer for details. ^Until March 2, 2015, receive 0% APR purchase financing on new 2015 Focus, and Edge models for up to 36 months, and 2015 Flex, Escape, Mustang (excluding Shelby GT350), and 2014 Edge models for up to 60 months, and 2015 Fiesta, Fusion, and Taurus models for up to 72 months, and 2014 Focus SE Sedan models for up to 84 months, to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $25,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 36/60/72/84 months, monthly payment is $694.44/$416.66/$347.22/$297.62, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0% and total to be repaid is $25,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. *Until March 2, 2015, receive $1,500/$1,000/$1,500/$2,500/$1,500 in Delivery Allowances with the purchase or lease of a new 2014 Focus BEV/ 2014 Focus S Automatic/ 2014 Focus (excluding S and BEV)/ 2014 Focus S Manual/ 2014 Focus SE Sedan which, for cash purchase customers only, is combinable with $1,500/$1,500/$1,500/$1,500/$0 in Non-Stackable Cash for total Manufacturer Rebates of $3,000/$2,500/$3,000/$4,000/$1,500. Offers are not combinable with CPA, GPC, CFIP, Daily Rental Allowance and A/X/Z/D/F-Plan programs. Delivery allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ^non-stackable cash^ is available to cash purchase customers and customers not financing or leasing through Ford Credit. ^Non-stackable cash^ is not combinable with Ford Credit purchase financing or lease rates. ¥Based on 2007 – 2013 and YTD August 2014 R. L. Polk vehicle registrations data for Canada in the Large Premium Utility, Large Traditional Utility, Large Utility, Medium Premium Utility, Medium Utility, Small Premium Utility, and Small Utility segments. ‡Claim based on Ford's definition of single nameplate, which does not include rebadged vehicles, platform derivatives or other vehicle nameplate versions based on IHS Automotive Polk global new registrations for CY2013. ~Based on 2014 November YTD R. L. Polk retail and fleet vehicle registrations data for Canada in the midsize segment. ~Remember that even advanced technology cannot overcome the laws of physics. It's always possible to lose control of a vehicle due to inappropriate driver input for the conditions. ™Some mobile phones and some digital media players may not be fully compatible with SYNC®– check www.syncmyride.com for a listing of mobile phones, media players, and features supported. Driving while distracted can result in loss of vehicle control, accident and injury. Certain MyFord Touch™ functions require compatible mobile devices. Some functions are not available while driving. Ford recommends that drivers use caution when using mobile phones, even with voice commands. Only use mobile phones and other devices, even with voice commands, not essential to driving when it is safe to do so and in compliance with applicable laws. SYNC is optional on most new Ford vehicles. ©2015 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM", the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under licence. ©2015 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

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Fight winter gloom with water pressure

Autopilot. Does your car look like it has been dragged through an episode of The Walking Dead? Then get thee to the nearest car wash

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Winter gloom is a cumulative thing, like being pecked to death by ducks, but special ducks, who wear little tuques and appropriate winter footwear.

If you're a motorist, some of those pecks come from how hard it is to keep your vehicle clean during winter. I'm not talking about concours d'elegance levels of clean. I'm talking levels of clean that just make it acceptable to touch the outside of your vehicle without immediately going for the hand sanitizer, or glove sanitizer, if they made such a thing.

Last week our Honda Fit looked liked it had been dragged through an episode of The Walking Dead — the post-apocalyptic ice-age edition — with salt and road grime clinging to every body panel.

Snow and ice in 50 or so shades of grey caked in the wheel wells. Floor mats so soaked with filthy winter juice I had the inclination to hover my feet over them while I worked the pedals.

But during the middle of that week, when I was driving on the other side of town, the sun came out. It was still cold enough to do bad things to a brass monkey, but the sunlight changed everything.

I headed to the first automatic car wash emporium I could find, and got a piece of paper with a numerical wash code, which I knew would be my ticket to a better winter frame of mind.

My enthusiasm was a bit tempered, at first at least, because so many others had the same inspiration, and I was about seventh in line for the wash, but then I sensed the power of the collective movement and bonded with my winter wash comrades.

Begone, filth! Cleaning your car is a good way to give Old Man Winter a swift kick in the shin. ISTOCK

Yes, it might be a losing battle. Who knows how long your vehicle will stay clean in February driving? Only hours, probably. But we'll live with that. A vehicle coming through the wash tunnel, all shiny and glinting in the sun, is a fleeting, good thing. And not a bad way to give Old Man Winter a swift kick in the shin.

Winter Car Washing Safety Tips

• Stick to no-touch or soft-cloth automatic washes, for the convenience, for the better job they do on vehicle undersides, and because ice can form on "by hand" wash mitts and brushes and subsequently scratch body surfaces.

• To prevent frozen doors and locks after a wash in super frigid temperatures, apply lock de-icer and use terry cloths to wipe down door jams and posts.

• Wipe wipers down to remove grit and salt, to keep them flexible enough to work properly, and so they don't freeze in position.

• Make sure salt and moisture are clear of rust "entry points," such as paint nicks, gaps, seams, and where parts are bolted onto the body.

• Don't drive yourself winter clean crazy. Save your energy for the major spring cleanup, when your efforts will have some staying power, and give you more satisfaction.

Quoted

Yes, it might be a losing battle. Who knows how long your vehicle will stay clean in February driving? Only hours, probably. But we'll live with that.

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Fuel-cell car launched by Toyota

Green. Toyota first automaker to mass market hydrogen-powered car

Toyota President Akio Toyoda on Tuesday unveiled the assembly line that is making the first mass market fuel-cell car.

The world's biggest carmaker plans to produce 700 units of the four-door Mirai sedan — powered by hydrogen and emitting nothing but water vapour from its tailpipe — by the end of December.

Production of the car (whose name means "future" in Japanese) is scheduled to expand to 2,000 units in 2016 and 3,000 units in 2017.

The Mirai, which is being made at the firm's Motomachi Plant in Aichi, central Japan, can travel about 650 kilometres (400 miles) without refuelling, some three times further than an electric car, and its tank can be filled in a few minutes like gasoline engine vehicles.

"We are thrilled to think that before everyone else, we are taking a historic step toward the establishment of a hydrogen society in Japan," Toyoda told reporters last month when he delivered a Mirai to the prime minister's office. AFP

An employee of Toyota Motors works on the FCV Mirai on its assembly line during the vehicle's line off ceremony. TOSHIFUMI KITAMURA/AFP

Japanese companies lead green car sector

Fuel-cell technology is seen as the Holy Grail of green cars as they are powered by a chemical reaction of hydrogen and oxygen, and produce nothing more harmful than water.

- Japanese automakers, including Toyota's rivals Honda and Nissan, have been leaders in the green car sector.
- The country's seven major manufacturers reportedly plan to spend a record $24 billion to research the sector this year.

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$195 DOWN PAYMENT. $0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. INCLUDES FREIGHT, PDI & LEVIES. INCLUDES $1,000 LOYALTY CASH[2], $4,500 CREDIT◆ & $1,000 PDU CREDIT.

SIERRA ALL-TERRAIN DOUBLE CAB SHOWN*

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BI-WEEKLY LEASE

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$1,650 DOWN PAYMENT. $0 SECURITY DEPOSIT. INCLUDES FREIGHT, PDI &LEVIES. INCLUDES $750 LOYALTY CASH.[1]

ACADIA SLT-1 SHOWN*

2015 GMC TERRAIN

CASH PURCHASE PRICE

$24,995‡

INCLUDES FREIGHT, PDI &LEVIES. INCLUDES $4,200 CASH CREDIT◆◆ & $750 LOYALTY CASH.[1]

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Visit us at: **GMC.GM.CA**

For the latest information, visit us at gmc.gm.ca, drop by your local Buick GMC Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ▼Based on a 36/48month lease for 2015 GMC (Sierra 1500 Double Cab 4X4 1SA/Acadia SLE AWD 3SA). Annual kilometre limit of 20,000 km, $0.16 per excess kilometre. OAC by GM Financial. Monthly/Bi-Weekly payments may vary depending on down payment/trade. A down payment or trade of $195/$1,650 and/or $0 security deposit is required. Total obligation is $12,573/$20,237. Option to purchase at lease end is $17,432/$19,726/$12,898. Excess wear and tear and km charges not included. Other lease options available. ‡Offer applies to the purchase of 2015 GMC Terrain SLE 3SA. ◆$4,500 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2015 GMC Sierra 1500 Double Cab and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Other cash credits available on most models. See dealer for details. ◆◆$4,200 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2015 GMC Terrain SLE-1 and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Such credit is available only for cash purchase and by selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing such credit which will result in higher effective interest rates. Other cash credits available on most models. See dealer for details. ▼/◆/***Freight & PDI, ($1,695/$1,650/$1,650), registration, air and tire levies and DMVIC fees included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2015 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario BuickGMC Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ±2015 Sierra 1500 SLE Double Cab 4WD with GAT, MSRP with freight PDI & levies $45,419. 2015 Acadia AWD SLT-1, MSRP with freight PDI & levies $49,454. Dealers are free to set individual prices. ▲Warranty based on 6-years or 110,000 km, whichever comes first. Fully transferable. See dealer for conditions and limited warranty details. Excludes Medium Duty Trucks. ⁜The 2-Year Scheduled Lube-Oil-Filter Maintenance Program provides eligible customers in Canada, who have purchased, leased or financed a new eligible 2014 MY Chevrolet, Buick, or GMC vehicle (excluding Spark EV), with an ACDelco oil and filter change, in accordance with the oil life monitoring system and the Owner's Manual, for 2 years or 40,000 KMs, whichever occurs first, with a limit of four (4) Lube-Oil-Filter services in total, performed at participating GM Dealers. Fluid top offs, inspections, tire rotations, wheel alignments and balancing, etc. are not covered. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives available on GM vehicles. General Motors of Canada Limited reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. **1**Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any model year 1999 or newer car that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2013, 2014, 2015 model year Chevrolet/Buick/GMC/Cadillac car, SUV, crossover and pickups models delivered in Canada between February 3rd, 2015 – March 2nd, 2015, (except 2015MY Cadillac Escalade). Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) and credit value depends on model purchased: $750 credit available on all eligible Chevrolet, Buick GMC vehicles; $1,000 credit available on all Cadillac vehicles (except 2015MY Cadillac Escalade). Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason in whole or in part at any time without prior notice. **2**Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any model year 1999 or newer pick-up truck that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive): $1,000 credit available towards the retail purchase, cash purchase or lease of one eligible 2013, 2014 or 2015 model year Chevrolet or GMC light or heavy duty pickup(except Colorado/Canyon); delivered in Canada between February 3rd, 2015 – March 2nd, 2015. Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason in whole or in part at any time without prior notice. **3**Offer applies to eligible current owners or lessees of any Pontiac/Saturn/SAAB/Hummer/Oldsmobile model year 1999 or newer car or Chevrolet Cobalt or HHR that has been registered and insured in Canada in the customer's name for the previous consecutive six (6) months. Credit valid towards the retail purchase or lease of one eligible 2013, 2014, 2015 model year Chevrolet/Buick/GMC/Cadillac car, SUV, crossover and pickups models delivered in Canada between February 3rd, 2015 – March 2nd, 2015 (except 2015MY Cadillac Escalade). Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) and credit value depends on model purchased: $1,500 credit available on all eligible Chevrolet, Buick GMC vehicles; $2,000 credit available on all Cadillac vehicles (except 2015MY Cadillac Escalade). Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. GMCL reserves the right to amend or terminate offers for any reason in whole or in part at any time without prior notice. *$10,000 is a combined total credit consisting of a $4,500 manufacturer-to-dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive), $2,345 Cash Credit (tax exclusive), $1,000 Loyalty Cash (tax inclusive) and a $2,155 manufacturer-to-dealer Kodiak Package Discount Credit (tax exclusive) for 2015 Sierra SLE Kodiak Edition, which is available for cash purchases only and cannot be combined with special lease and finance rates. By selecting lease or finance offers, consumers are foregoing this $2,155 credit, which will result in higher effective interest rates. Discounts vary by model. **Offer valid to eligible retail lessees in Canada who have obtained credit approval by and entered into a lease agreement with GM Financial, and who accept delivery from February 3rd, 2015 – March 2nd, 2015 of any new or demonstrator 2015 model year GMC. City Express excluded at outset of program; will be eligible once residuals become available. General Motors of Canada will pay one month's lease payment or two bi-weekly lease payments as defined on the lease agreement (inclusive of taxes). After the first month, lessee will be required to make all remaining scheduled payments over the remaining term of the lease agreement. PPSA/RDPRM is not due. Consumer may be required to pay Dealer Fees. Insurance, licence, and applicable taxes not included. Additional conditions and limitations apply. GM reserves the right to modify or terminate this offer at any time without prior notice. See dealer for details. +Visit onstar.ca for coverage maps, details and system limitations. Services and connectivity may vary by model and conditions. OnStar with 4G LTE connectivity is available on select vehicle models and in select markets. Customers will be able to access OnStar services only if they accept the OnStar User Terms and Privacy Statement. 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GT model shown

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GT model shown

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LEASE FROM **$89**‡ at **0.79%** APR
bi-weekly for 36 months, with $995 down.
Excludes HST.

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GT models shown

2015 CX-5 GX

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▼Based on total Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) Category wins (various) up to the 2014 model year. *To learn more about the Mazda Unlimited Warranty, go to mazdaunlimited.ca. †0% APR Purchase Financing is available on select new 2015 Mazda models. Terms vary by model. Based on a representative agreement using an offered pricing of $17,752 for the new 2015 Mazda3 GX (D4XK65AA00) with a financed amount of $18,000, the cost of borrowing for a 36-month term is $0, monthly payment is $500, total finance obligation is $18,000. Offer includes freight, P.D.E. and fees. Offer excludes HST. Finance Pricing for new 2015 Mazda3 GX (D4XK65AA00)/2015 CX-5 GX (NVXK65AA00) is $17,752/$25,144 financed at 1.99%/1.99% over 84/84 months equals 182/182 bi-weekly payments of $97/$139 with $995/$1,495 down payment, cost of borrowing is $548/$782 with a total obligation of $18,299/$25,926. As shown, Finance Pricing for new 2015 Mazda3 GT (D4TL65AA00)/2015 CX-5 GT (NXTL85AA00) is $27,852/$35,644 financed at 1.99%/1.99% over 84/84 months equals 182/182 bi-weekly payments of $157/$201 with $995/$1,495 down payment, cost of borrowing is $882/$1,129 with a total obligation of $28,733/$36,773. Offers include freight, P.D.E. and fees. Offers exclude HST. ‡Offer available on retail leases of new 2015 Mazda3 GX (D4XK65AA00)/2015 Mazda3 Sport GX (D5XK65AA00)/2015 Mazda6 GX (G4XL65AA00) with a lease APR of 0.79%/0.79%/0.49% and 78/78/104 bi-weekly payments of $85/$89/$139 for 36/36/48 months, the total lease obligation is $7,664/$7,939/$16,460, including down payment of $995/$995/$1,995. As shown, Offered Pricing for new 2015 Mazda3 GT (D4TL65AA00)/2015 Mazda3 Sport GT (D5TL65AA00)/2015 Mazda6 GT (G4TL65AA00) with a lease APR of 0.79%/0.79%/0.49% and 78/78/104 bi-weekly payments of $163/$170/$191 for 36/36/48 months, the total lease obligation is $13,706/$14,219/$21,910, including down payment of $995/$995/$1,995. Lease payments include freight and P.D.E. of $1,695/$1,695/$1,695. 20,000 km per year mileage allowance applies; if exceeded, additional 8¢ per km applies. Offers exclude HST. Offered leasing available to retail customers only. Licence, insurance, dealer administration and other fees, taxes and down payment (where applicable) are extra and may be required at the time of purchase. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary on certain vehicles. Offers valid February 3 – March 2, 2015, while supplies last. Lease and finance on approved credit for qualified customers only. Offers subject to change without notice. Visit mazda.ca or see your dealer for complete details.

Should the Big Three be worried about an iCar?

Technology. As the auto world becomes increasingly digitized, companies like Apple are poised to invest

Is the future of the car industry in Silicon Valley? After Tesla and Google, Apple appears to be readying for a plunge into the industry long rooted far away in the steel belt of the U.S. Midwest.

According to various media reports, the maker of iPhones and iPads has created a special unit dubbed Titan with hundreds of staff to begin developing an electric car, with 2020 the target date. Apple remains silent on the project, but the reports were partially backed up by a lawsuit filed against the tech giant. Battery maker 123 Systems has accused Apple of aggressively poaching its staff. But it puts Apple in line with Tesla, the current champion of the electric car, and Google, the online giant which is focused on the self-driving, also-electric Google Car.

The Big Three automakers — General Motors, Ford and Chrysler (now a part of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, FCA) — are taking the threat from the

Apple CarPlay CONTRIBUTED

Detroit outsiders seriously.

"Given the company's (Apple's) tremendous capabilities, that is no surprise to anyone," GM spokesman Dan Flores said. At Chrysler, spokesman Eric Maynes said: "We can't comment on something we haven't seen." Ford had no comment on Apple's plans, either, but the No. 2 automaker recently opened a research centre in Palo Alto, in the heart of Silicon Valley, as it looks to the future of self-driving automobiles.

Bill Visnic, an analyst at industry specialist Edmunds.com, said that given the seven-year average time frame to develop and bring a car to the mass market, the Detroit giants are not under serious pressure yet.

Even with the unexpected success of Tesla, the company still sold fewer than 35,000 cars last year in an national market of more than 16 million units. "Apple is not an immediate threat to the U.S. auto industry. I don't think you'll see the volume there, the number of cars won't really begin to approach anything like Detroit is making right now at any time soon," said Visnic. AFP

Money to spend

- **Apple has the cash to put into a new car — some $180 billion in capital built up to invest in new projects.**
- But "the automotive space is so highly competitive today, and margins in new car sales are extraordinarily thin, which is something Apple is not used to," says Alec Gutierrez, a market analyst at Kelley Blue Book.

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You must expect changes today, and if you are smart you will change yourself. The most vital change you can make is in your attitude towards others.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Ignore those you don't get along with today and spend your time with people whose beliefs are in tune with yours.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Something you've worried about for ages is not important and what happens today will convince you of that.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You want to be on the move. You want to get away from your usual environment and do something different. But don't make it anything too energetic. If you can't do it sitting down, it's most likely not for you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A friend or family member will bend over backwards to help you today and if you are smart you will let them, even though you don't want to be in their debt. If you need financial assistance now is the time to ask.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is a good time for partnerships and affairs of the heart, so forget about all the things that went wrong in the past and think of all the things that will go right in the future.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Forget about duties and do what makes you happy. You are not in the mood for work and if you try to force yourself to do things that don't inspire you the end result will be frustration.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
If you are not feeling on top of the world don't worry about it because it won't be long before your mood moves rapidly in the other direction.

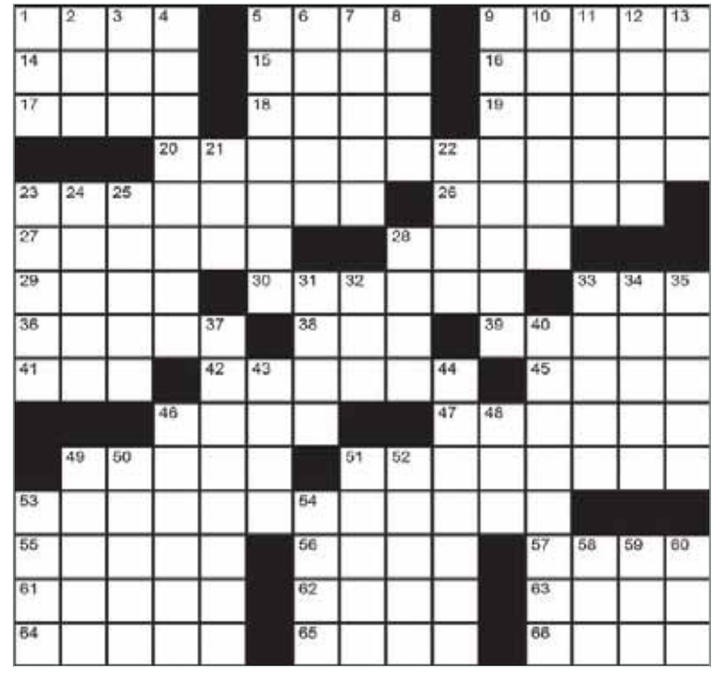
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you need to persuade someone to see things your way or to do you a favour this is the time to make your play.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you need to say something that might upset people, say it now rather than later. The Sun in the communications area of your chart will help you find the words to convey your meaning.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't let money worries stop you from enjoying yourself. There are times when you must watch what you spend and times when you should splash out. This is one of the latter.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Something you've worried about will worry you no longer come the end of the week. Cosmic activity in and around your birth sign means your outlook is changing.

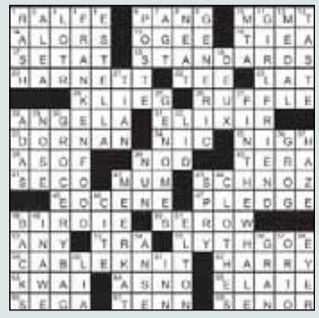
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Brush alternative
5. Zippo
9. Scandinavian language, in Oslo's country
14. Iridescent gem
15. Aesir ruler
16. Calgary-born singer Melissa
17. Mr. Preminger
18. Western prov.
19. Story, in a house, in French
20. Town in #18-Across, a religious crossing?: 2 wds.
23. Period of History Channel's "Vikings": 2 wds.
26. R. Lee __, "Full Metal Jacket" (1987) actor
27. The Night of the __, Tennessee Williams play
28. Stubbing _ __ (Ottoman-bumping result)
29. Recounted
30. King on the show at #12-Down
33. 2002 Jennifer Lopez remix album: 'J to __ L-O!'
36. Mr. Bratton of "The Office"
38. Sleuth, shortly
39. Plastic wrap
41. Possessed
42. Actor Mr. Garfield
45. Wrongdoing, in law
46. So longs
47. "That's good enough.": 2 wds.
49. Analyze/break down
51. Canadian actress Ms. Gilsig (More at #12-Down!)
53. As per #30-Across... Female warrior like the character Lagertha
55. "__ la vista, baby." - The Terminator
56. Reverse
57. Wild-no-more
61. Synthetic fibre
62. Appear to be
63. Ottawa Senators defenceman Chris Phillips, pronounced KRIHS FIHL-__
64. Alter text
65. Gibraltar, et al.
66. Droops

Down
1. Dove's sound effect
2. Choose
3. Doorway carpet
4. Passage-hindering war tactic
5. Coffee-orderer's request: 2 wds.
6. On _ __ (How pranks might begin)
7. CDs parts, variantly
8. Cross of ancient Egypt
9. Free from typos, for instance: 2 wds.
10. Prompt: 2 wds.
11. The Cloister and the Hearth novelist Charles
12. #51-Across' role on History Channel's "Vikings"
13. Twittering Machine artist, Paul __ (b.1879 - d.1940)
21. Lucas' Solo
22. Alpha, __, gamma...
23. Trench
24. Prefix to 'phobia'
25. Reigned
28. 'A' of AM
31. Tots up
32. Eur. country
33. Creature of Scandinavian folklore
34. Robust
35. 19th-century composer Mr. Bruckner
37. Alberta town southeast of Edmonton
40. Plato's lost island
43. Require
44. Wisenesses
46. Crackers brand
48. Literary monogram
49. Shoppers Drug Mart, e.g.
50. Theatre lane
51. Wayne Gretzky's wife
52. Downy duck
53. Sock's coverer, often
54. Make messy
58. '80s band from Norway
59. Car advertisement fig.
60. Curved letter

Yesterday's Crossword

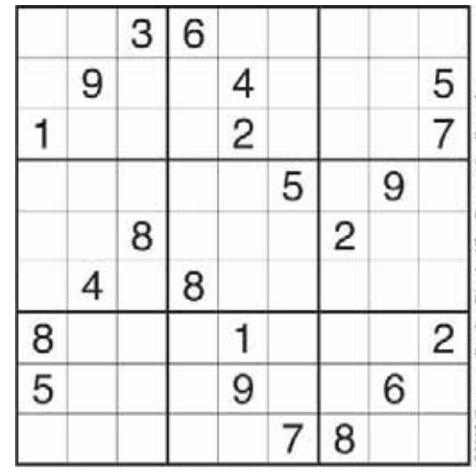


Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

5	4	3	2	9	1	6	8	7
1	7	8	4	6	3	2	5	9
2	9	6	5	8	7	4	3	1
4	6	9	8	1	5	3	7	2
8	1	7	3	2	6	9	4	5
3	5	2	7	4	9	1	6	8
9	8	1	6	5	4	7	2	3
7	2	4	9	3	8	5	1	6
6	3	5	1	7	2	8	9	4

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Rio4 SX with Navigation shown‡
Cash purchase price $22,514
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/7.3L

2015 RIO LX MT

from $21 weekly for 69 payments | **0% financing for up to 84 months** | **$0 down payment Δ**

$21 weekly payment includes $1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments based on 2015 Rio LX MT (R0541F) 84-month financing. After 69 weekly payments at $21, weekly payments increase to $43Δ. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.§ Excludes HST.

Forte SX AT shown‡
Cash purchase price $26,814
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.3L/8.0L

2015 FORTE LX MT

from $24 weekly for 62 payments | **0% financing for up to 84 months** | **$0 down payment Δ**

$24 weekly payment includes $1,500 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments based on 2015 Forte LX MT (F0541F) 84-month financing. After 62 weekly payments at $24, weekly payments increase to $48Δ. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.§ Excludes HST.

Optima SX Turbo shown‡
Cash purchase price $33,514
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 5.7L/8.9L

2015 OPTIMA LX AT

from $36 weekly for 28 payments | **0% financing for up to 84 months** | **$0 down payment Δ**

$36 weekly payment includes $1,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments based on 2015 Optima LX AT (OP742F) 84-month financing. After 28 weekly payments at $36, weekly payments increase to $73Δ. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.§ Excludes HST.

Sorento SX AT AWD 7-Seat shown‡
Cash purchase price $38,894
HWY / CITY 100KM^ : 9.0L/12.7L

2015 SORENTO LX AT

from $39 weekly for 50 payments | **0% financing for up to 84 months** | **$0 down payment Δ**

$39 weekly payment includes $2,000 Half Price Payments Credit. Payments based on 2015 Sorento LX AT (SR75BF) 84-month financing. After 50 weekly payments at $39, weekly payments increase to $79Δ. Half Price Payments Credit may alternatively be taken as a one time lump sum payment.§ Excludes HST.

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